

Wigan West

# PARISH MAGAZINE



**Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer.**

Hebrews 10:25



**£1 August & September 2025**



Dear friends,

Summer is here! As I sit and write this it's the first week of the summer holidays and my children have gone to stay with a grandparent, leaving the house unusually quiet. It has given me the time and space to think about the last year. Jude was in year one and Eve year four, I've watched both of them grow in knowledge, confidence, and character and it is a delight to watch them grow and a privilege to be part of their growth and development.



We understand and expect our children to grow, not just physically but we expect their heart, mind, body, and soul to mature. It would be unusual and alarming to get to the end of the academic year and not see any positive change in our children.

We should have the same expectation of positive change in our own lives and in the life of our Church. The word we use for this Christian growth is “sanctification” – the process of becoming holy, perfect, and Christ-like and it is a process that is only fully completed in the world to come.

Each of us who follow Jesus is in the process of *sanctification*, we become more holy over time, we imitate Jesus a little more closely as time goes by. It is good and right to expect change in our own lives and we should be able to look back over the year and see that we have grown, just like we can with our children.

As adults this can be difficult. Change for us rarely happens at the pace it does for our children, there isn't the same expectation of change, we don't have a syllabus and we don't have set achievements or qualifications to attain. However, there are ways to help.

Firstly, we need to be deliberate about wanting to be closer to God. We each need to recognise that this is what God wants for us and that we need to do it. Jesus said “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10), and everything else Jesus said first with this. Doing what Jesus tells us to do goes hand-in-hand with living life to the full. We don't engage in *sanctification* as a religious observance for which we receive a reward later, we do it because the God who made us set this out as the best way for us to live.

We also need to have an idea of how we grow, and for this I'm going to use the Diocese of Liverpool's Rule of Life:

- **Pray.** This is the first step in your journey, connecting with God through prayer.

- **Read.** Reading scripture is encouraged as a way to learn from God's word.
- **Learn.** Learning from God and from others is a key part of spiritual growth.
- **Tell.** Sharing the good news of Jesus with others is part of the journey.
- **Serve.** Serving those in need, both locally and globally, is a vital aspect of discipleship.
- **Give.** Giving back to God through time, talents, and resources is encouraged.

Help is available for each of these points, you are not on this journey alone. You can visit the Rule of Life website for more information here: [ruleoflife.org.uk](http://ruleoflife.org.uk) and you can ask any church leader for help and advice.

Another key aspect is accountability—people close to us who can nudge us in the right direction when we need it. Small groups are good for this, and are something we would like to see more of. A small group is a few people meeting regularly, often in a home, to pray, read and learn together. If you would like to be part of a small group please speak to a church leader, or talk to a couple of friends about starting one. Our faith is not meant to be lived alone, we are encouraged to spend time together to spur each other on.

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer. Hebrews 10:25

The more we each engage in personal growth, the more we seek the Kingdom of God ourselves, then the more we will see that as a Church. We know that our Church isn't perfect, and we know that it will be perfect when Jesus returns, so we can see that the Church too is in the process of growth.

We will always share Eucharist, read the Scripture, pray, and hear preaching but exactly how we do this, and what else we do as Church, and how we're engaging with people in our neighbourhoods, should change and grow.

So as we pray, read, and learn in order to tell, serve, and give so that we can grow closer to God as individuals we should also consider how we can pray, read, and learn, in order to tell, serve, and give so that we can grow closer to God as a Church.

It is an unimaginable blessing that God would choose to work with us, that He would delight in our growth as we delight in our own children's growth, and friends I encourage you to be active in seeking God, in enjoying His delight in you, and striving to be more like Jesus because of the joy of the Father.

**Sam**



# A SPLASH OF COURAGE: MY 65<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY SWIM IN WINDERMERE



On Friday, June 13, 2025, I celebrated my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in a way I'll never forget—by intrepidly splashing into the chilly waters of Lake Windermere. For two years, the idea of swimming in Windermere by taking part in The Great North Swim had lingered in my mind, but fear held me back.. This wasn't just a personal milestone; it was a chance to raise funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind, a cause close to our hearts.

Since the sad loss of our lovely 'Buddy' in January we decided to become Puppy Raisers for Guide Dogs rather than get a new pup of our own (for now!).



Would I be fit enough? Could I handle the cold? This year, with my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday looming and our commitment to Guide Dogs growing, I decided it was now or never. Sponsoring the swim for such a meaningful cause gave me the extra push to take the plunge.

Cliff and I, along with my “merry band of supporters” —eight dear friends—made the journey to the Lake District, settling into a charming house in Ambleside for a three-night stay. The house buzzed with games and laughter, shared meals, and anticipation for the big day. My friends' encouragement was unwavering, their cheers and smiles a constant reminder of why I was doing this, I couldn't have done it without them, they were as excited as I was!



The afternoon of June 13 arrived, crisp and clear. As I stood on the shore of Windermere, the lake stretched out before me, its surface glinting under the early summer sun. My nerves were electric, but so was my excitement. The group of swimmers, a mix of seasoned veterans and first-timers like me, shared a camaraderie that eased my jitters. We waded in together, the cold-water biting at first but soon giving way to exhilaration. Stroke by stroke, I found my rhythm, surrounded by the stunning fells and the support of my fellow swimmers and the people in boats, canoes and paddle boards.

The swim wasn't just about conquering my fears; it was about giving back. Guide Dogs for the Blind provides life-changing support for visually impaired people, and knowing that every splash raised funds for such a worthy cause made each moment in the water deeply rewarding. Cliff and I were thrilled to be starting our journey as Puppy Raisers, and this swim felt like a fitting tribute to the charity's mission.

Back on shore, my merry band of supporters greeted me with hugs and cheers, their pride and relief matching my own. The weekend in Ambleside was a whirlwind of joy—hilarious entertainment provided by Barbara, many shared stories, hearty meals, happy hours and the warmth of Christian fellowship. It was a celebration not just of my birthday, but of courage, community, and the power of giving back.

As I reflect on that day, I'm filled with gratitude. Swimming in Windermere was a dream realized, a challenge met, and a chance to support a cause that is now an even bigger part of our lives – our boy Morgan our Guide dog puppy – arrived 4 weeks ago we are absolutely delighted with him!



Here's to 65, to new adventures, and to making a difference—one stroke at a time. It's never too late – all things are possible with God.

**Denise**

### **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

Please have any content to the editors by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

If you would like a copy of the magazine in **LARGE PRINT** please email Barbara at [hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org](mailto:hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org)

## Friendship Group—St. Matthew's Friendship Group

Where is this year going? August is here again and very soon we will be seeing Christmas decorations up. I confess to being somewhat of a wet blanket when it comes to those. However, I suppose we do have nearly five months to live and hopefully enjoy before then! I certainly hope that members of our Friendship Group will have enjoyed a few more trips and meals out in that period.

In July we discussed our next trip. We are strictly an equal opportunity group, inasmuch as everyone has a right to express their opinion on where we should go and in the case of disagreements, we vote on the issues, with the most votes winning the day. This was exactly how a decision was made on this occasion. The options put forward by me were to go once again to either Llandudno, Lytham, or to Knowsley Safari Park. With the additional options of having a meal at the Fox at Roby Mill, or at the Wheatlea Park restaurant near to the M6 slip road.

The first two would require the hiring of a coach at a cost of £500, the others we could go in our own vehicles. With the cost of the coaches and the meals being paid by the Group with effectively the members' own money. We are blessed with sufficient car owners to give everyone a lift for relatively short distance trips.

Now our finances as a Group are very simple. Everyone pays 'subs' equivalent to £2 per week by standing order monthly into our bank account. With 20 members we therefore can accumulate slightly more than £2,000 per annum. Also, we have been fortunate enough to have received support from our local councillors, Clive, Marie and Paul through the Brighter Borough Fund of £500 per annum. This support has been given for several years now and hopefully it will continue. In addition to that, last year I was successful in obtaining a further grant of £500 from another Community Fund, this particular amount was considerably added to by our own Community Interest Club (the Parish Hall) and together we financed a post-Christmas party in the Hall for ALL volunteers in St. Matthew's Parish. You would probably be amazed at how many local people give up their time to help others in all sorts of ways, from the church choir, church cleaners, graveyard maintenance helpers, Youth Leaders etc. etc., plus of course their spouses. We catered for up to 100 people, including our Group, for a pleasant evening with entertainment in early January in our Community Hall. Something else that we hope to do again.

Anyhow, I have omitted to mention the winner of the vote. We will be going once again to Llandudno, together with regular friends who pay for one of the considerable numbers of spare seats on the 37-seater coach. Those who wish to can also join those of us happy to pay for a pleasant lunch in the 4\* St. George's Hotel on the promenade or do whatever else takes their fancy. I can only hope for the beautiful weather we enjoyed last time. **Dave Whitter**

## ST JAMES LADIES' FRIENDSHIP GROUP



Unfortunately, we didn't have a speaker in June, as Paul wasn't well. Hopefully he will be able to come to another meeting with his latest publications?

I wasn't at the last meeting either, as I was on holiday, however, Joyce told me everyone was happy enough having a chat and deciding what they were bringing to the bring and share buffet in July.

The summer fair was a great success, Joyce and I did a raffle on behalf of the group, and we raised an amazing £108. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets. The overall total of the fair was in the region of £700 towards church funds.

August 21<sup>st</sup>, our friend DENNIS WINSTANLEY has agreed to return to talk to us, he was very interesting last time he visited with his tales of the territorial army. I don't know the subject of his talk this time but maybe he will tell of some of his travels as we are in the holiday season.

September 18<sup>th</sup>, we have another return visitor, KATHLEEN MORAN.

She is going to read some poetry (don't worry, she assures me it will be light-hearted)

All meetings are 7pm in the lounge at St Clements Court, Worsley Mesnes Drive, WN3 5UF. Please come along to any meeting, everyone is welcome, male or female. Despite us being named the "ladies" friendship group, we do have a couple of husbands who now come along regularly!



As this is a double issue, I will leave you with my favourite Irish blessing until next time.

*May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rain fall soft upon your fields,  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.  
Amen*

## 6th Wigan Town St Matthews Rainbow Guides

In July we said our goodbyes to Jessica Sharkey as she heads off to Brownies with St Aidan's in Winstanley. It has been a pleasure to have her in the group, and we wish her well.



We also welcomed two new Rainbows who made their promise on 1 July. Scarlett Barker and Edith Wilson. We hope they continue to enjoy their time with Rainbows.

Special congratulations to Darcey Fazackerley who has worked really hard at Rainbows and at home. Darcey has completed all of her challenge badges and gained her **Gold Award**. There are several sections and stages which are a huge achievement at such a young age. Darcey is a very well-mannered and willing young girl and has proved her abilities. We hope she continues to enjoy Rainbows, and we are sure she will be a willing help to the younger girls having set such an example.



### Unit Leaders

Over the past few weeks, we have spent some time looking at birds and what foods are good and bad to feed them. This was leading to a special visitor coming to see us, we welcomed Jennifer Doyle who has written the books focussed on Billy the Blackbird. During the visit we had the story read to us, as well as being taught what to do if we find a baby bird and the different types of birds and then finally, we were able to make our own bird feeders from milk cartons. As well as dress up as Billy himself.

As previously mentioned, we raised money for a local charity, Daffodil Dreams. We have now raised over £340 to be donated to the charity now that all the sponsor money has been collected.

Our final meeting before the summer was a pyjama party to celebrate the Pot of Gold party for Tillie and Lily who have now turned 7 and ready to move up to Brownies.

We are looking forward to the summer break ready for another exciting year starting in September when we will welcome back some old faces as well as some new rainbows.

### The Rainbow Leaders



# 14<sup>th</sup> Wigan Town Brownies



We have had a busy few weeks, we had Molly who plays in a local lady's team, visit to show us how to play cricket, so the girls learned some new catching and batting skills. The following week we learned cooking skills when Mrs Wilson (mum of one of the Brownies) brought in the ingredients for us to prepare and cook a chicken noodle dish. They all did really well and of course they got to take it home for tea, it was delicious.



We then had a 'pet' evening when the girls brought in a toy pet animal, and they interviewed each other to see if they were fit to own and look after them.

Our Guiding County of Lancashire South were invited to watch Wigan Ladies Rugby play Leigh Leopards at Robin Park. We arrived early when the girls were able to have their hair braided with red and white ribbons, their faces painted and support Wigan Hospice on their lucky dip stand. As kick off approached the girls were then taken onto the pitch to hold the hospice flag as the teams came out. We all really enjoyed the afternoon, especially as Wigan won brilliantly 60-6 and at the end the team chatted with the girls, thanking them for attending. The Brownies were a huge credit to themselves; we were proud to take them.

On 1 July we as leaders attended our annual awards evening, Deb, who is our Unit Helper and an invaluable member of our team, received her three-year service award. Congratulations!

We finished the term with a beach party, with all the necessary ingredients. We played games, made kebabs and of course 'mocktails'. We also said goodbye to our two oldest Brownies, Lily, and Amelia. We hope they have enjoyed their time with us, we have certainly enjoyed having them in the pack.

## Brownie Leaders



## Boys Brigade

At the July church parade Louis Gordon did a fine job reading the role of Jesus in the story of the Good Samaritan. Well done, Louis. Congratulations also to Harvey Nolan who was presented with his Anchors badge at church parade. The badge is awarded to boys when they have completed their first three tasks in the Anchor Boys.



Alan Peet has agreed to give the boys another crown green bowling session on our last night prior to the summer break.

Places will be available for young boys after the school holidays. We are particularly keen to encourage the parents of 5 to 8 years old boys to allow them the opportunity to try out the Anchor Boys section.

**Marian Brown, Officer-in-Charge**

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## St Matthews Guides

For the last few meetings before the summer break we took advantage of the good weather and had time outdoors. We also had a Yoga night which went down very well although some found it difficult to keep quiet!!



Ms Gloria Green the lady who runs the art group in church on Tuesday came and spent a night with us showing the girls how to do water colour painting. The result was very good we have many talented young girls with us. Thank you to Gloria for her time it was a good night.

The following week we completed our annual sponsored walk from the hall to Orrell Water park - well done to everyone who took part on a very warm night and also to all the parents and friends who sponsored the girls.

Our last meeting was on 7 July, and we finished with a party.

On the 12 July we had a trip to London. We set off from Wigan Northwestern station at 8.15 a.m. with 21 girls and 8 adults and amazingly we returned at 7.45 p.m. with 21 girls and 8 adults. It was one of the hottest days of the year so far and did we know it. On arrival at Euston station we took a tour bus taking in some of the sights of London on the way to Buckingham Palace where

we got off and took the tour of the staterooms at the palace. Due to ongoing renovations some of the rooms were closed but there was still plenty to see. From the palace we took another tour bus back to Euston for the 5.30 p.m. train home. During the day lunch was eaten and tea purchased at the station on the way home. The girls were really good as we all suffered somewhat with the heat. Grace Anderton, Erin Albers, Martha Roberts, and Elise Prescott all made their Guide promise at the palace, and we hope they will remember this occasion in the future. We have had comments from some parents who were Guides telling us they remember doing their promise in London on previous trips.



We must give a big thank you to Jacky Clarke, Grace Rigby, Lucy Farrell, Helen Albers, and Laura Albers for helping us out on the day, even if one or two had to be persuaded to come. Everyone had a good time, oh and did we mention it was HOT.

We will restart our meetings on Monday 15 September.

The Guiders, Amy, Georgia, and Sheila

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# 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.

## Highfield Cricket Club

On the field, all of our junior teams are having strong seasons. Congratulations to the under 11s team coached by Lahiru Wellalage ("Bala") who won a tight playoff game against Leigh to secure the League Pairs Trophy. Well done boys and girls, and Bala and his helpers.

In the latest round of league matches for the senior teams, we enjoyed a double header win against Old Xaverians.

Highfield hosted Old Xaverians CC from Liverpool in the latest round of league matches. The visitors won the toss and unsurprisingly chose to bat on a baking hot day at Billinge Road with a lightning-fast outfield. Old Xavs started well with a solid opening partnership before Mohit Jangra struck, Chris McLoughlin taking the slip catch. But the innings was 17 overs old when Jangra claimed his second, clean bowling the other opener, 55 for 2. Hedley Molyneux replaced Sam Rotherham, but seam at that end quite quickly made way for spin in the form of Jamie Darbyshire. Meanwhile Jangra toiled away and did claim a third wicket, breaking a stubborn partnership, 77 for 3. Darbyshire also claimed a wicket, but at 132 for 4, the visitors were well placed to post a competitive score. But as so many times this season, the prolific wicket taker Bala struck, and triggered a series of dismissals that saw Old Xavs all out for 180. Bala added another five-wicket haul to his collection, whilst Mohit claimed 4.

Highfields openers Joel Welsby and captain Ryan Hargreaves started well before Hargreaves played a trademark cut straight to slip, 30 for 1. Welsby was undeterred by losing his opening partner and with good support from Mike Simpson, moved to an excellent 50 before being bowled, 87 for 2. Simpson (18) also followed and when Bala was dismissed for just 4, the home side were 104 for 4. But Highfield have strength in the batting order and resilience. And so it proved as Hedley Molyneux and Harry Moxham made light work of the target, Moxham blazing a run a ball unbeaten 28 and Molyneux a similarly paced unbeaten 61, including 3 maximums.

25 points for Highfield and a further push up the table as the promotion places tighten up a bit more.

Highfield 2s travelled to South Liverpool to face Old Xaverians on a hot summer's day. Ryan Allen won the toss, and it was to no surprise to put the opposition into the field and bat first. Tom Cunliffe was first to go without contributing, deemed bowled but most thought it potentially came off the keeper's glove and back onto the stumps. Brother Jack Cunliffe came in at 3 who quickly got to 49 before being caught looking to work the ball past the fielder around the corner. Opener Javid Niazi was going along nicely rotating the strike well with Jordan Callinan, finding boundaries along the way. Both



brought up well deserved half centuries in a 105-run partnership in 15 overs. With both looking to advance and keep the run rate building, Javid Niazi (89) looking to come down the track found the man at first slip. And then Jordan Callinan (58) couldn't keep a low one out hitting the bottom off stump, in the 37th over with the score 206-4.

William Heyes (15) looked to hit one over mid-on and was caught at which point captain Ryan Allen decided to declare with the score 215-5 from 39.1 overs. After an interval topping up the factor 50, ice lollies and water - Matty Wallace had the perfect start bowling the opening left-handed batsmen for 0. Adding to his tally, he quickly found 2 more wickets, the score 37-3. Young Charlie Farrell picked up a well-deserved wicket with the other opening batsmen hitting the ball to Jack Cunliffe at cover. First change Lee Martinus 'steaming' into the crease, joined the party, picking up a wicket hitting leg stump of the middle order batsmen. Matty Wallace reached another 5-wicket haul, snicking the batsmen to veteran Gary Darbyshire along with another textbook bowled. With the score at 70-8 from 20 overs, Highfield looked to wrap things up and get out of the sun. But Old Xaverians had other ideas with an unexpected 10th wicket partnership of 69 runs.

Javid came on and quickly finished things off picking up two wickets, both batsmen hitting the ball into the ever-reliable Tom Cunliffe at mid-on ending proceedings on 149 all out from 33.5 overs and winning by 66 runs.

Off the field, we have two events to look forward to:

On Bank Holiday Sunday 24th August we have our annual Family Funday.

And on Saturday 22nd November we have our Annual Ball, some tickets remain available.



The banner features a blue circular logo on the left with a cricket bat and ball, containing the text 'EST. 1924' and 'FOOTIS AD FORTEM HIGHFIELD CRICKET CLUB'. To the right is a cartoon squirrel. The background has colorful wavy lines.

# Family Fun Day

## HIGHFIELD CRICKET CLUB

**1.30PM AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY**

**Rides, Inflatables - toys & sweet stalls**  
**Food Stalls - Ice Creams - Bars - Gin & Prosecco tent - Live music & More...**

# 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

3 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
6 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
7 **Thursday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
10 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP Holy Communion  
10.30 Service of the Word  
13 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
17 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP  
10.30 Holy Communion  
12.30 Baptisms  
20 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
24 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP Communion  
10.30 Morning Praise  
27 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
31 **Sunday**  
10.30 Hub Service @ St Matthew's

### St James with St Thomas August

3 **Sunday**  
10.30 Service of the Word  
10 **Sunday**  
10.30 Baptisms  
17 **Sunday**  
10.30 All Age Holy Communion  
24 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
18.30 Open table  
31 **Sunday**  
10.30 Hub Service @ St Matthew's

### St Paul's August

3 **Sunday**  
9.00 Holy Communion  
10.30 Baptisms  
6 **Wednesday**  
10.30 Little Lane Holy Communion  
10 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
13 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
17 **Sunday**  
10.30 Service of the Word  
20 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
24 **Sunday**  
10.30 Service of the Word  
27 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
31 **Sunday**  
10.30 Hub service @ St Matthew's

### Lighthouse August

3 **Sunday**  
14.00 *no service*  
10 **Sunday**  
14.00 Family Communion  
17 **Sunday**  
14.00 Family Worship  
24 **Sunday**  
14.00 Family Worship  
31 **Sunday**  
14.00 *no service*

**ALL SERVICE IN ST JAMES' SCHOOL**

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

WiganWestHub



# September Services



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### St Matthew's September

3 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
4 **Thursday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
7 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
10 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
14 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP Holy Communion  
10.30 Family Parade Service  
17 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
**Thursday**  
11.45 Prayers  
21 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP  
10.30 Holy Communion  
12.30 Baptisms  
24 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
28 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP Communion  
10.30 Morning Praise

### St James with St Thomas September

7 **Sunday**  
10.30 Service of the Word  
14 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
159th Anniversary  
21 **Sunday**  
10.30 All Age Holy Communion  
28 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
18.30 Open Table

### St Paul's September

3 **Wednesday**  
10.30 Little Lane Holy Communion  
7 **Sunday**  
9.00 Holy Communion  
10.30 Baptisms  
10 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
14 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
17 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
21 **Sunday**  
10.30 Service of the Word  
24 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
28 **Sunday**  
10.30 Service of the Word

### Lighthouse September

7 **Sunday**  
14.00 Family Worship  
14 **Sunday**  
14.00 Family Communion  
21 **Sunday**  
14.00 Family Worship  
28 **Sunday**  
14.00 Family Worship

**ALL SERVICE IN ST JAMES' SCHOOL**

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

WiganWestHub





Highfield Cricket Club  
Presents

# Autumn Ball

**Live Music by Marble Eyes**

**Saturday 22nd November 2025. 7pm till late**

Highfield Community Hall, Billinge Road, Highfield, Wigan.

**3 course Dinner**

**(including a bottle of wine per table of 10)**

**£45.00 per ticket**

**Contact Mathew Jones for tickets: 07930867209**



# 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

Friday 9.30-12noon

Saturday 11-2pm alongside our Faith Café

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

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

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

## **Service of the Word with Brunch @ St James' Centre**

This is proving to be popular, and we will have brunch again on Sunday 3 August and Sunday 7 September, following our Service of the Word. We will be serving bacon and or sausage barmes and ask for a small donation towards cost.

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## **Lifelines Café @ St James' Centre**

Lifelines Café will meet at church on Friday 8 August and Friday 5 September at 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome, whether living with dementia or not. We especially welcome carers. Refreshments and activities provided are all free.

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## **Faith Café @ St James' Centre**

Our wonderful Faith Café will closed on Saturday 16 August as we will be at Pride supporting Open Table. We expect the café to be open all other Saturdays during August and September.

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## **Bereavement Support @ St James' Centre**

The Bereavement Support Group meets at St James Church on Thursday 14 August and Thursday 21 August as the following Monday is a bank holiday. During September, the group will meet Thursday 11 September and Monday 29 September. All meetings start at 1pm. You are most welcome to attend our bereavement support group if you have been recently bereaved or it was some time ago. The group offers group support and if needed can offer one to one support. Refreshments are always served, and our leader Mr David Berry will make you most welcome. He can be contacted on 07404 605015.

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## **McMillian Coffee Morning @ St James' Centre**

St James church will be hosting a McMillan Coffee morning on Friday 26 September between 10 & 12 noon. Home made cakes and lovely coffee is promised. Come along and support this worthy cause.

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## **Christian Aid Wills**

If you are making your will please consider donating an amount to Christian Aid. To learn more about leaving a gift in your will visit [caid.org.uk/MyWill](http://caid.org.uk/MyWill). Or you can write or update your Will for free by visiting [farewill.com/FaithWill](http://farewill.com/FaithWill) or call 02080502686.

## Lifelines Choir @ St James' Centre

We will meet in church on Monday 4 August and then Monday 8 September and Monday 22 September at 1pm. This is an inclusive choir for anyone that wishes to sing. On Monday 4 August David will be away so it will be a relaxed sing along.

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## Open Table @ St James' Centre

Open Table Holy Communion will be at St James with St Thomas Church on Sunday 24 August and again on Sunday 28 September. 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.

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## Heritage Weekend @ St James' Centre

Once again, we are taking part in Heritage Weekend and encouraging people to visit our beautiful church. There will be tours of our church building and our ringing chamber. The café will be open serving delicious hot food and we will have one or two stalls as we try to raise much needed funds for our bell restoration project. Its all happening on Saturday 13 September between 11am and 2pm.

---

## Dedication Festival@ St James' Centre

On Sunday 14 September we will be having a Traditional Service of Holy Communion at St James as we celebrate 159 years of being church in this community. We will follow the service with a roast beef and Yorkshire pudding lunch, and we can look at ideas on how we celebrate our 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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## Monday Cuppa @ St Matthew's

Well done ladies (plus one gentleman coming now and then). I have given £100 donation for Church Funds. We are a group that meets on a Monday afternoon in St. Matthew's Church from 2pm to 3:30pm for a drink and biscuit. All are welcome. Come and knit whilst you natter!

## Art And Craft Sale @ St Matthew's

Thank you to all the people who supported us at our Art and Craft sale. The total to date is £549.11. A date for your diary - we are hoping to have a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 1st. November. Watch this space. Thank you, Anne, Barbara, and Chris. The ABC girls!

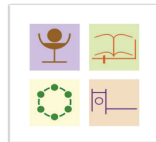
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## Christmas Stall Holders

The Pemberton Christmas Market is taking place on SUNDAY 30th November, between 12 and 5pm. We are looking for more outdoor stall holders, as well as indoor stalls at St John's Church, who are also joining our market again this year. As well as stalls, we're also looking for attractions, walk about characters etc. Contact [pembertonevents@post.com](mailto:pembertonevents@post.com) or 07305978989.

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***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/](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/parish-of-wigan-west-wigan/)

**Tel:** 0333 002 1260



# Little Stars<sup>Toddler Group</sup>

Free Play, Snacks, Story Time & Singing!

## Little Stars Toddler Group

St Paul's Hall behind Bumblebee's Nursery, Clapgate Lane Off Warrington Road, WN3 6SE

MONDAYS 9:30am - 11am

**Term Time Only**  
Cost is only £1.50 for  
ONE adult & child  
(Additional child is 50p)

From Birth to  
School Age Children!



# All Welcome!

## Across

1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)

4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)

8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)

9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)

10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)

11 ' — thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)

12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)

17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)

19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)

21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)

22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)

23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)

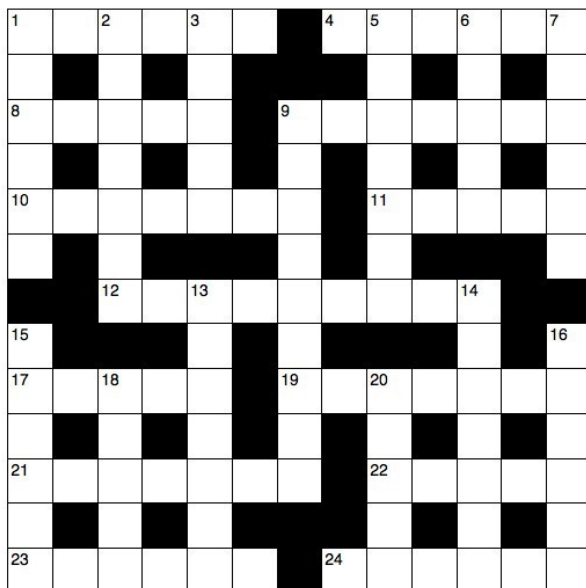
24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

## Down

1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)

2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)

3 'The wicked man — deceptive



wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)

5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)

6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)

7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)

9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)

13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)

14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)

15 See 12 Across

16 Rioted (anag.) (6)

18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)

20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

## The Transfiguration

## Word Search

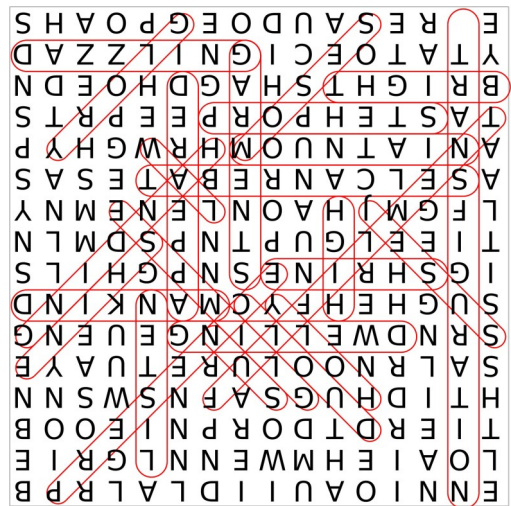
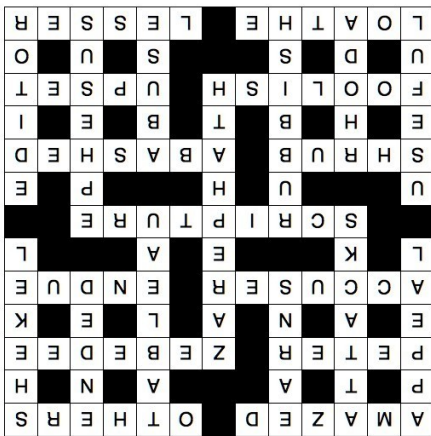
The story of the Transfiguration is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). On that day, high up on a mountain, Peter, James and John were given a glimpse of Jesus' true glory. For Jesus' face began to shine as the sun, and his garments became white and dazzling. Then Elijah and Moses, suddenly appeared, talking with him.

Overwhelmed, Peter offered to build three tabernacles on that holy place, one for each. But God's 'tabernacling', or God's *dwelling* with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on being in the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a bright cloud covered them, and a voice spoke, saying that Jesus was his beloved son, whom the disciples should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus.

*Why did Moses and Elijah appear?* They represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they were handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.



*Transfiguration, high, mountain, glimpse, glory, shine, sun, garments, dazzling, appeared, moses, tabernacles, holy, dwelling, shrine, presence, Jesus, bright, cloud, mankind, listen, law, prophets, handing, fulfilment*



## 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



**Baptisms**

Isla-Rose Jackson      St James’  
Mason Jackson        St James’  
Ava Megan Sharrock   St Matthew’s  
Jax James Farmington St Matthew’s

**Burials and Funerals**

**St James with St Thomas**

None

**St Matthew’s**

Hilda Warrington    95yrs  
Susan Betty Banks    80yrs

**St Paul’s**

20/06/23      James Gordon Gore   93yrs  
27/06/23      Eric Purdham            77yrs  
Kathleen Tracey.      85yrs

**Weddings**

21/06/2025 Karen Marie and Andrew  
Gerard Greep St James’

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**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](mailto:jeffmccann11@hotmail.com)

**Donations**

Precious memories of a very special person David Ryder

**From Janet, Wendy, Davina & family**

**£100 from the Monday Cuppa Club**

**£195 from the Sunday refreshments team**

**Altar Flowers –  
St. Matthew’s**

3rd August – vacant  
10<sup>th</sup> August – Mrs M Green  
17<sup>th</sup> August – vacant  
24<sup>th</sup> August – Mrs B Smith  
31<sup>st</sup> August – vacant  
7<sup>th</sup> September – vacant  
14<sup>th</sup> September – Mrs B Whittle  
21<sup>st</sup> September – Mrs B Jenks  
28<sup>th</sup> September – Mrs B Jones

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

**The Parish of Wigan West** is the Church of England in the West of Wigan—covering Worsley Mesnes, Poolstock, Goose Green, Hawkley Hall, Winstanley, and Highfield—the former parishes of St James with St Thomas, St Paul's, and St Matthew's.

We are made up of different worship communities with many different styles and settings used for worshipping God, including our own buildings of St James with St Thomas (where *Tom's Pantry* is), St Paul's and its hall, and St Matthew's and its hall.

Have a look at our Facebook page for details of everything from online coffee and chat to traditional services, as well as the latest news.

**Church Wigan** Team Rector Revd Neil Cook [neil.cook@churchwigan.org](mailto:neil.cook@churchwigan.org)

### **The Parish of Wigan West**

Hub Leader

*Rev Fran Humphry* 01942 803320

Warden *Ann Birch* 01942 227036

Warden *Martin Gaskell* 01942 741340

Treasurer *Jeff McCann* 07595 882 321

Minute Secretary

*Kathleen Moran* 01942 255741

Clergy Administrator:

*Barbara Poyntz* 07845 947 573

Magazine Editors

*June Gibson* 01942 703096

[jngibson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jngibson@hotmail.co.uk)

*Paul Nolan* 01942 804810

[pnolan1972@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pnolan1972@yahoo.co.uk)

Printing:

*Sam Rusling* [sam@jesandsam.com](mailto: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](mailto:tracymathioudakis7@gmail.com)

*Jo Baines* 07956 030669

Organist *David Goulden* 01942 245710

Flowers *Iris Wright* 01942 493850

Flowers *Jean Hogan* 01942 492888

Bereavement Support

*David Berry* 01942 386987

Sunday School

*Jodie* 07549810711

Primary School Executive Headteacher

*Mrs A Jackson* 01942 703952

Baptism Team

*Margaret Baxendale* 07906 615501

*Joyce Matthews* 07733 108040.

### **Lifelines** St James' Centre

Distinctive Deacon

*Alison Brown* 01942 740777

### **Little Stars** St Paul's Hall

*Lucy Haigh* 07900 252 361

### **Wellspring** St Paul's Hall

Local Missional Leader

*Lucy Haigh* 07900 252 361

### **Lighthouse**

Local Missional Leaders:

*Jes Rusling* 07827 326 290

[jes@jesandsam.com](mailto:jes@jesandsam.com)

*Sam Rusling* 077 22 99 4923

[sam@jesandsam.com](mailto:sam@jesandsam.com)

### **Shine** St Matthew's School

*Rev Sam Swan*

[sam.swan@churchwigan.org](mailto:sam.swan@churchwigan.org)

*All information correct as of July 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 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 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

Dear Friends,

We hope this month's magazine finds you well and enjoying the blessings of the summer season. We're writing with some truly encouraging news—not just for our parish, but for the whole Diocese.

We are delighted to share that the Diocese has been awarded an incredible £6.2 million grant to be spread over the next three years, with a further £15 million to follow in years four to seven. This substantial funding is a tremendous answer to prayer and represents a powerful investment in the future of the Church across our region.

As Bishop Ruth so beautifully put it, this grant gives us *“the opportunity to build on some of the fabulous mission and ministry being done all around the diocese in growing the faith of the youngest and ensuring their voice is heard throughout the church and diocese.”* These words capture the heart of what this funding will help to achieve—a missionally healthy and financially sustainable diocese that actively nurtures the faith of our children and young people.

It is both humbling and inspiring to know that our collective efforts—alongside those of so many faithful across the diocese—are bearing fruit. This grant recognises and supports the hard work already happening in our parishes, schools, and communities. It also challenges us to be even more attentive to the voices of the youngest among us, encouraging us to create church spaces where all generations feel they truly belong.

Here in our own parish, let's take this opportunity to reflect on how we can be part of this larger vision. Whether through supporting children's ministries, encouraging intergenerational worship, or simply being open to new ways of being church together, each one of us has a role to play.

As always, thank you for your continued prayers, service, and generosity. We are excited for the season ahead and the promise it holds for our community and beyond.

With every blessing,

**Martin**

