

Wigan West



PARISH MAGAZINE

Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Romans 8:38



£1 November 2025

Dear friends,

Remember, Remember, the 5th of November...

As the leaves gently fall and the evenings draw in, it's not only the approach of Bonfire Night and the sight, sounds and smells of fireworks in the crisp evening air that bring a sense of reflection and remembrance to our lives. The soft light, and the golden hues all invite us to pause and look back – not just on the year that's nearly passed, but also on those dear to us who are no longer with us.



This season of remembering is especially poignant in the church calendar. Early in the month, we mark All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, occasions when we recall with gratitude those who have gone before us. Their lives, marked by faith, kindness, and perseverance, continue to inspire us. We remember loved ones who shared our journeys and shaped our stories, giving thanks for their lasting impact on our lives and in our parish communities.

Remembrance Sunday, too, is a time when we gather as a nation to honour those who gave their lives in conflict. Wreaths are laid at cenotaphs, and silence falls across our towns and villages as we reflect on the cost of peace and freedom. Here in Wigan West, we will hold an Act of Remembrance as part of the service at each of the churches in our parish on 9th November:

10:30 am at St James with St Thomas, Poolstock

10:30 am at St Matthew's Highfield

10:45 am at St Paul's Goose Green – where we will be joined by the congregation of Goose Green Methodist Church.

We look forward to welcoming our uniformed organisations, and all who would like to remember with us. We come together in prayer, not only mourning lives lost but also renewing our commitment to work for peace in our world today. Remembering is never simply about looking back; it is also about shaping our future – learning from the courage and sacrifice of others and striving to create a world marked by hope and reconciliation.

Yet, remembering can be bittersweet. Grief and loss may weigh heavily, especially for those whose bereavements are recent or whose memories are particularly raw at this time of year. If that is you, please know that you are not alone. As a parish, we are here to walk with you – to listen, to comfort, and to pray. Do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our church family. There are contact details for all our worship communities in the magazine.

Our faith assures us that remembering is also about hope. As Christians, we

trust that nothing can separate us from the love of God, (Romans 8:38). We remember Jesus, who died and rose again so that we might have life in all its fullness. In our remembrance, we find reassurance: that love endures, that light overcomes darkness, and that God holds us and our loved ones in eternal care.

May this month of remembrance bring comfort, peace, and renewed hope to each of you and to all those you hold dear.

With love and prayers,

Fran

Revd Fran Humphry, Team Vicar, Wigan West Parish

St. Matthew's 14th Wigan Town Brownies

We spent our first weeks back after the summer break catching up on what we had all been up to, reminding ourselves of our six groups and our Brownie Promise. We also made plans for the girls who signed up for our Division weekend away in February 2026 to Waddow Hall in Clitheroe.



We welcomed Alice to Brownies and really hope she enjoys her time with us.

With some of the legacy we were given by Mrs Lavin, we have purchased two giant games which all the groups can use. The girls had much fun competing with the darts and axes (expertly built by Grace and Lois our DofE volunteers) as well as the life-size tetras. Hopefully they will help to improve the girl's skills in working as a team.

Approaching harvest we made corn decorations for Church and collected items for the Pantry.

The GA have altered the badges which the girls can achieve so they have chosen ones for us to work on in the meetings with them. We will let you know how they get on.

Elizabeth Gaskell

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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

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

hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org

St Matthews Guides

We restarted our meetings in September and as we usually do, on the first night we asked the girls to write the guidelines which are the rules we hope to observe during our meetings. We caught up on all the activities and holidays everyone had enjoyed.



We now have a new badge book with some really good badges in it that the girls can do, and we started with the Food Critic badge and a blind tasting of various foods. It's surprising how things taste differently when you can't see what it is!! The girls were also tasked with preparing a meal at home and showing us the results and they were excellent, some good cooks in the making.

The next week we followed on with the Entertainer badge and this was a fun night, lots of talent on show.

As we come towards Halloween, we had a night revolving round painting and decorating polystyrene pumpkins and wooden pumpkins. We will finish this half term with a Halloween party. **The Guiders, Amy, Georgia, and Sheila**

16th Wigan Town St. Matthew's Rainbows

Currently we have merged on a temporary basis with the 14th Rainbow Guides and are meeting on Monday evenings rather than Tuesday evenings until further notice. This is due to my assistant leader not being able to attend due to ongoing medical treatment and health and safety regulations made this a necessity.



Thanks must go to the 14th Rainbows for accepting the group and to the parents for their co-operation and understanding. We welcome Heidi Boylan, Nance Schmeichel, Clementine McKernan, and Charlotte James we hope they enjoy their time with us. We said goodbye to Everly Fisher, Libby Baldwin, Sophia Williams and Jessica Sharkey who have moved up to Brownies, we wish them well on their guiding journey.

Unit Leaders

ST JAMES LADIES' FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Kathleen Moran did a great job in September entertaining us by reading some favourite poetry from her youth, after telling us a little of how she came to be a teacher. We were all enchanted by what she chose to read, especially the last one "Albert and the Lion" which we are very familiar with.

Hopefully, someone is coming from the Daffodils Dreams Charity to talk to us in October, so far, they have been hard to pin down after I have sent reminders. Watch this space.

Also, at the end of October, we look forward to congratulating one of our members, Lorraine, on her forthcoming marriage. Hope I can manage a photo!

As the year draws to a close with Christmas on the horizon, (can a year have gone so quickly ?) we are having a Christmas themed craft evening on the 20th November.

Jean Hogan is going to work her magic with foliage and help us create a small table decoration again. Don't forget that you will need to bring along a small clean jar or suitable container.

Also we are having a visit from the 'Christmas card ladies' of St Matthew's with a selection of cards to buy, so the usual mantra applies, - bring your purse!

Nothing has been decided on yet for our Christmas party - 11th December, that is" what to do about a buffet "but we will all have a say in the decision, and you may need your purse for this too!

Margaret xx
07906 615501

*All meetings 3rd Thursday of the month (except December)
7pm in the lounge of St Clements Court, Worsley Mesnes, WN3 5UF
All welcome, no obligation . It's warm, comfortable and friendly .*

In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out.

It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being,

We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit.

Albert Schweitzer

God always moves

Grassroots chaplaincy can transform community as *Lizzy Cook* in Wigan explains:

Over the last 18 months, a vision was started in Wigan—a call to bring chaplaincy into grassroots sport, for the church to be present.

Wigan is a town full of passion, especially when it comes to sport. It's a universal language that unites people from all walks of life. What began as a team of two chaplains has now grown into a committed group of eight (six having done the *Sports Chaplaincy* training), all carrying a heart to serve and support the local sporting community.

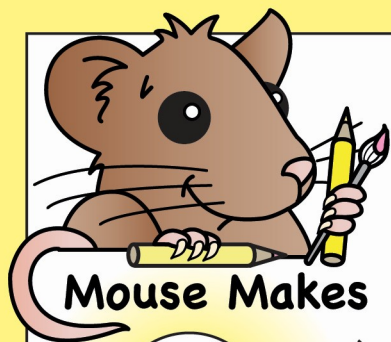
One of the places we serve is Laithwaite Park, one of 18 sites managed by Leisure United across the UK. Every Wednesday evening we show up to walk, talk, listen, and pray. It's become clear that grassroots sport is a huge mission field. On average, around 500 people pass through the park on a Wednesday night. Over time, we've built a consistent and trusted presence. People now stop to talk, to share their lives, and to find comfort in a listening ear. Simply standing on the sidelines and offering a reassuring voice has become a quiet but powerful ministry.

But our work doesn't end at Laithwaite. We also serve at Highfield Cricket Club and are developing new connections with clubs in other sports like wrestling. Across each of these settings, we've seen how God is moving—connecting people, opening hearts, and drawing us together through sport. Every time we leave a club, we're reminded that showing up in faith and obedience allows God to create something bigger than we can see. Our team motto 'Spread the Gold' reflects this mission.

You'll see us in our golden hoodies, symbolising hope, light, and the presence of God in community. It's more than a slogan—it's a vision to see God's love spread across Wigan. And we're seeing it happen. New partnerships are emerging, both with sports clubs and with local churches. We're especially excited about our upcoming *Young Disciple in Sport* programme, where we'll train and mentor teenagers and young adults to become sports chaplains, planting seeds of faith, service, and discipleship across the borough.

Grassroots chaplaincy isn't always fast-moving. Sometimes, it can feel like slow work. But when we stay faithful—rooted in prayer and present in the community—we've seen that God moves—always!

Taken from the Sports Chaplaincy Greater Connections magazine.

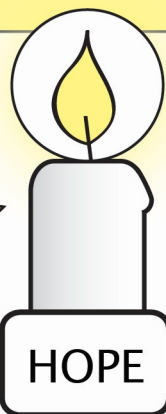


Mouse Makes

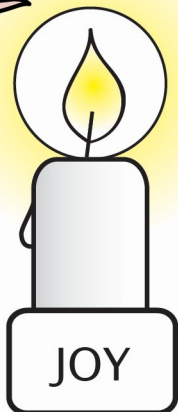
LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November.

ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour. We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



Read:
Isaiah 40:5
What shall be revealed?



Read:
LUKE 2:10-11
Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?



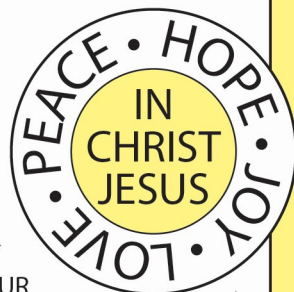
Read:
John 3:16
How did God show He loves us?



Read:
Romans 5:1-2
Through who do we have peace with God?

L G L O R Y E M P R O M I S E
S O K J Y A A R R I V A L W F
A D V E N T G O O D N E W S O
V P L S V L I R P S V P C A R
I E I U I O F C H R I S T H T
O A G S U V T M E S S A G E O
U C H O P E O P C A N D L E L
R E T U R N J O Y T W D B E D

ADVENT • ARRIVAL • HOPE • JOY • LOVE • PEACE • GOD • GLORY
MESSAGE • PROMISE • PROPHECY • FORETOLD • JESUS • SAVIOUR
CHRIST • GIFT • GOOD NEWS • RETURN • CANDLE • LIGHT



Highfield Cricket Club

At the time of writing, we are just two weeks away from the AGM immediately followed by our annual Bonfire and Fireworks, a massive community event.

The outcome of the AGM is therefore not known, other than as advised at last year's meeting, Gary Speakman will be stepping down from the Chair role after 21 years in post. He reflected recently on that long period:

"I have always wanted the committee (and myself as Chair), to be judged by results, not by those on the field alone (although they are important), but by staying aligned with our values and strategic priorities; including our ground, junior set up and community.

What a stunning ground we have and what outstanding facilities we now have available for our members, visiting clubs and the community. We are indebted to our volunteer grounds team, led by Martin Gaskell.

The junior set up, from Allstars through to 18s has been crucial as it remains the best way of instilling and maintaining our culture, supported by another group of wonderful volunteer coaches. And the conveyor belt of talent from our juniors to senior teams has been strong, feeding directly into competitive senior teams over the last 20 years, including those that have secured promotions and won trophies.

Highfield as a place has a strong identity given its only really a hamlet, and the cricket club has arguably done as much as anyone over the last 100 years to raise that profile. Through its community engagement programmes, I believe that the cricket club has supercharged that over the last 20 years. The symbiotic relationship between the cricket club and community hall is a massive strength.

Community Engagement was always intended to be self-serving, a productive cycle, with engagement programmes and events attracting more players, parents, sponsors, umpires, scorers, coaches. That has been.

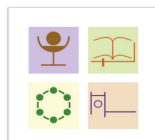
We have also had a relatively successful period on the field, with Premier league reached for the first time, plus a couple of cup wins in more recent times. Following our first ever promotion to the Premier league for the 2010 season, we were in the topflight for five of the following six seasons and then again in 2018 for one season, which some might say is a good example of a club punching above its weight! But we haven't been in the topflight for the last seven years, which is a bit disappointing, so we must look forward to being back there again in the future, stronger and better equipped for the challenges it brings.

It's been a privilege and an honour to be the Chairman of Highfield CC, succeeding Harold Gaskell a true legend of the club. It's not an easy role, especially for someone like me who wants to continuously improve and strengthen all aspects of the club, but I have been blessed to have great people around me and I think we have got more right than wrong over that long period and the club is in good shape with firm foundations. Personally, the centenary season in 2024 was a particular highlight, including the two cup final wins that year as well as the fundraising and build of the new scoring facility now carrying my name; as were the three promotions to the Premier League, and also being crowned best Sports Club in the Borough not once but twice, in 2010 and 2023, all great memories.

To all those who have supported me and the club over the last 21 years, a massive thank you. I remain a proud Honorary Life Member of Highfield CC and will always do what I can to support the club."

Gary Speakman

***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

**Christmas Greetings in the
December Magazine**

If you would like to send a Christmas Greeting in our parish magazine rather than send individual cards, you can do this by donating to church funds. Put the donation in an envelope, write on the front of the envelope your greeting as you would like it to appear in the magazine and give it to Revd Alison, Rev Fran, or one of the Church Wardens in your church building, or on the collection plate, by Sunday 9 November. Thank you.

Thank You

Many thanks are due to Carl and Adele Coupland, two of our voluntary Churchyard Maintenance team, for giving up a few hours on a Sunday to bring their jetwashing machine to clean the War Memorial at the back of church (the Lord and Sharmans 'Slipperworks' memorial). In the 45 years or so that I have worked on the graveyard, to my knowledge it is the first time in the 80 or so years since it was dedicated that it has been cleaned!). The memorial itself is grey granite and it stands on a base of beautiful pink sandstone which matches the Runcorn sandstone of which our church is built. Though one could not tell that until the grime of 80 or so years was removed.

I have asked for a faculty to be sought (permission) to move the memorial to a more visible site at the front of church, possibly on the site of the old notice board at the side of the front doors. I know that our local councillors are interested in this being done and they could doubtless assist in the physical aspects involved in doing so. As a Church we need permission from the Diocese before doing virtually anything to the building and its surrounds. Also the building is Grade Two * listed, putting additional safeguards in place. As it protects our much-loved building, we can have little problem with this. Unfortunately it always seems to take forever before a faculty is granted and it is now at least 12 months since I first asked our Churchwarden to apply for one.

Over to you Martin! I am certain many people are unaware that the Memorial exists as its siting is not in the most visible of places. **David Whitter**

A Message from St Paul's CE Primary School

Good morning,

The application form for Reception Intake 2026 has now gone live.

Parents/Carers should apply online, the online application form can be accessed via our web page. If you haven't used the portal to apply for a school place before you will need to register and create an account before you are able to complete the application form. Parents/Carers must apply to the local authority you pay council tax too (you can still apply for schools in other areas on the application form). [Primary school admissions \(wigan.gov.uk\)](https://www.wigan.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions)

All applications, supplementary forms and any additional documents must be submitted by the closing date of 15 January 2026. Any applications received after the closing date will be classed as late (this also includes changes of preferences and if you move house after the closing date).

If parents/carers need any assistance or have any questions you can contact the customer contact centre on 01942 489013 or email schoolplaces@wigan.gov.uk.

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

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"

Tom's Pantry New Opening Hours and Warm Spaces.

From Tuesday 4 November Tom's Pantry will no longer be opening on Fridays. Our new opening hours are:

Tuesdays 9.30-11.45am with café open until 11.30am providing warm spaces.

Wednesday 9.30-11.45 with café open till 11.30am providing warm spaces.

Saturday 11-2pm alongside the Faith Café.

St. Cecilia's day—Sunday 23 November

Come and join us at St. Matthew's Church for our annual St. Cecilia's day. This year our choir and friends will be singing "Night of Miracles" which is a piece of music which re-tells the Christmas story. There will also be an opportunity for you to sing some up-beat hymns. The service begins at 4pm on 23 November and it is free! Well, there will be a retiring collection!

Please support our choir - they have been working very hard.

Sue Gordon



November 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 November

- 2 **Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
16.00 Memorial Service
6 **Thursday**
10.30 Holy Communion
9 **Remembrance Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Family Parade Service
16 **Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Holy Communion
12.30 Baptisms
19 **Wednesday**
18.00 Evening Prayer
23 **Sunday**
9.00 BCP Communion
10.30 Morning Praise
30 **Sunday**
Hub Service @ St James

St James with St Thomas November

- 2 **Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
18.30 Memorial Service
9 **Remembrance Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
16 **Sunday**
10.30 All Age Holy Communion
23 **Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
18.30 Open Table
30 **Sunday**
10.30 Hub Service

St Paul's November

- 3 **Sunday**
9.00 Holy Communion
10.30 Baptism Service
5 **Wednesday**
10.30 Little Lane Holy Communion
9 **Remembrance Sunday**
10.45 @ St Paul's Memorial Service of the Word
12 **Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
16 **Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
19 **Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
23 **Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
26 **Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
30 **Sunday**
10.30 Hub Service @ St James

Lighthouse November

- 3 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship
9 **Sunday Harvest**
14.00 Family Communion
16 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship
23 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship
30 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship

ALL SERVICE IN ST JAMES' SCHOOL

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

WiganWestHub



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!

Join us at

St James with St Thomas Church,
Church Street, Poolstock for our

Christmas Fair

on **Saturday 15 November** 2025
from **12 noon**

Stalls include:

Chocolate Tombola

Café

Café & much more

Stationery Tombola

Santa's Grotto

Lucky Dip & more!





Wigan
Choral
Society

HANDEL

MESSIAH

with trumpets and drums

Sarah Thomas, Soprano

Vicki Little, Alto

Aidan McCusker, Tenor

James Connolly, Bass

Musical Director: John Powell

Organ: Carol Kwater

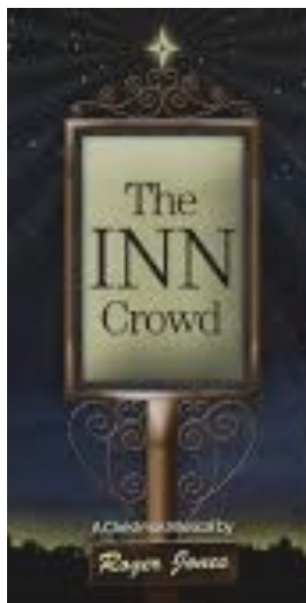
Saturday 13 December 2025 7:30pm

St Michael's, Duke Street, Wigan WN1 2BJ

All tickets £15 payable on the door or

www.wiganchoral.co.uk

Registered charity no: 1155474 Follow us on Facebook



The Inn Crowd

A Christmas Musical

By Roger Jones

St James Church

Poolstock Wigan WN3 5EZ

7pm Sunday 30th November

free with a retiring offering

**Seasonal refreshments served for which
we are asking for a donation**

Service of the Word with Brunch @ St James' Centre

This is proving to be popular, and we will have brunch again on Sunday 2 November following our Service of the Word. We will be serving bacon and or sausage barmes and ask for a small donation towards cost.

Lifelines Café @ St James' Centre

Lifelines Café will meet at church on Friday 7 November at 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome, whether living with dementia or not. We especially welcome carers. We will be eating together and then having an Act of Remembrance. All free and all welcome.

Faith Café @ St James' Centre

On Saturday 15 November St James' will be having their Christmas Fair. The Faith Café will be closed, but the café will be open for the Fair and refreshments will be available with prices displayed.

On November 29 the Faith Café will be closed as we get church ready for our Christmas Musical "The Inn Crowd. Details of this musical are advertised in this magazine.

Bereavement Support @ St James' Centre

The Bereavement Support Group will meet in St James with St Thomas Church on Thursday 13th November and Monday 24 November. 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.

Free Christmas Concert

December at St. Paul's Goose Green St Paul's Ave. WN3 5LH

Wednesday 17 December 11am to 2pm join us in our Community Café for a light meal, a drink and a chat. Followed by a free Christmas concert by Age UK silver choir concert 1pm to 2pm. no tickets just come and enjoy

Thursday 18 December 7pm Local Councillors Christmas Carol Service with Brass Band followed by a hot pot supper just come and enjoy

For more details contact Arthur 0771 000 4243

A Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who donated Harvest Gifts. Tom's Pantry has plenty tinned food to keep us going over the next few months.

Lifelines Choir @ St James' Centre

The choir will meet Monday 3, 10 & 17 November at 1pm and Monday 24 November at 3.15pm in church. We have started rehearsals for Roger Jones' Inn Crowd. It's a fun exciting musical for Christmas and will be performed in St James with St Thomas' church on Advent Sunday evening, 30 November at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come and join in this event, so if you fancy a sing come along-you're welcome!

Open Table @ St James' Centre

Open Table Holy Communion will be at St James with St Thomas Church on Sunday 22 November. We meet at 6pm for a brew and chat and a 6.30pm start, and yes there are Christian Communities which genuinely welcome and affirm LGBTQIA+ people. You are welcome to come as you are.

Toy service St Matthew's

We will be having the usual Toy Service at the December Church Parade and any donations to purchase vouchers for disadvantaged children in the Wigan area is greatly appreciated. These can then be used to buy Christmas presents for the children. Thanking you in anticipation for your continued support.

Barbara Jenks

Christmas Greetings

Just to remind you if you want to donate to church funds in lieu of Christmas Cards, we need your greeting by Sunday 9 November. The easiest way to do it is to put money in an envelope and write on the envelope what greeting you want printing in the magazine. Remember the December magazine is put together from 15 November.

Pemberton Christmas Market

The Pemberton Christmas Market takes place on Sunday 30th November between 12pm and 5pm. There are a wide variety of stalls inside Lamberhead Green Club, St Johns Church and on Chapel Street. There will also be Kevin the Clown, a Paint Ball alley, Snow Globe, and Hook a Duck. We have a veteran stall bringing a lucky dip stall, raising funds for our local veterans.

Santa will also be in his grotto in the Lamberhead club between 2pm and 4pm, with Trinity Girls Brass Band from 3.30 on Chapel St playing Christmas Carols. A fun filled afternoon for all the family! Thanks to our sponsors, Dean Trust (Wigan), SJ Leisure, HSK Balloons, Crystal Leisurewear and Fairclough's accident Claim Solicitors.

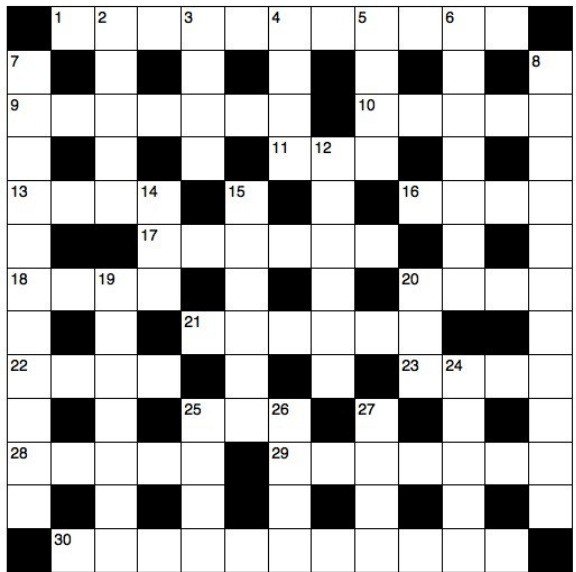
Dave Arrowsmith

Across

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — ' (Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

Down

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — ' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)



- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
- 6 I veto me (anag.) (7)
- 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
- 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
- 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
- 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
- 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)
- 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding' (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
- 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
- 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
- 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
- 26 Heroic tale (4)
- 27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — ' (John 8:32) (4)

St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews.

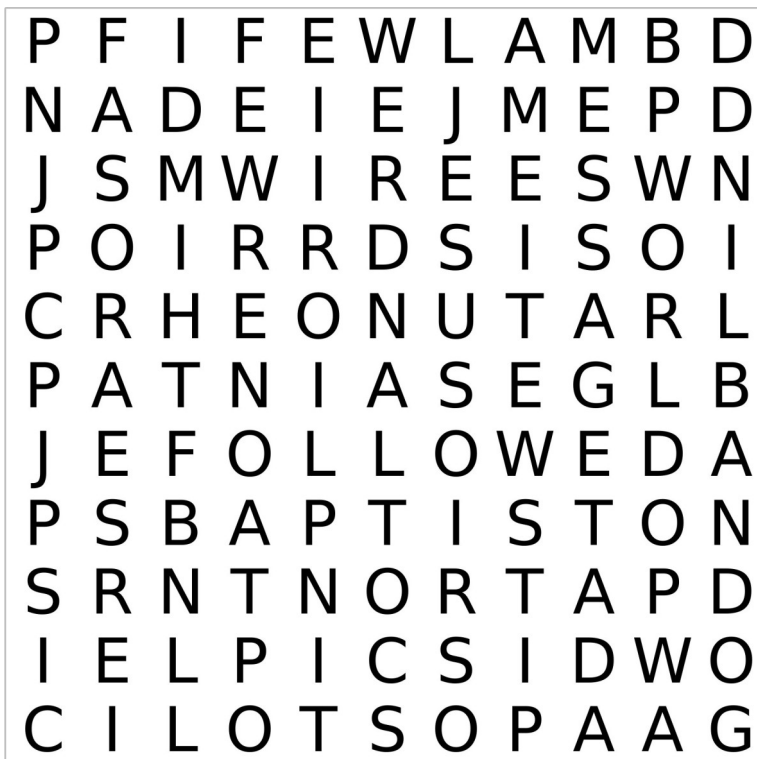
Word Search

Andrew was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ – his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the prophet John the Baptist. When one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend, and described him as the ‘Lamb of God’, the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as Jesus made off, they followed him.

When Jesus turned and asked them what they were ‘seeking’, all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: ‘where are you staying?’

The reply of Jesus was the most straight-forward invitation anyone can receive: ‘Come and see’. So they did, and the results of their response were life changing. For Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus, and soon the little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was formed. And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.

Andrew
Patron
Saint
Scotland
Fife
First
Disciple
John
Baptist
Lamb
God
followed
Jesus
Come
See
Peter
Apostolic
Band
Message
World



Baptisms

Arya Loren Bannister	St Matthew's
Ida Joyce Hudson	St Matthew's
Ethan Luca Brown	St Matthew's
Grace Nicole Brown	St Matthew's

Donations

Donation
From Derek Swift

Burials and Funerals

St James with St Thomas

None

St Matthew's

Irene Twigg aged 95

St Paul's

15/09/25 Frank Barrow aged 77

17/09/25 Elizabeth Green aged 96

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

*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.*

Altar Flowers

St. Matthew's

2 Nov – vacant

9 Nov – Mrs D Kirk

16 Nov – Mrs K Woods

23 Nov – Mrs J Whitter

30th Nov – vacant

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

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

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

Church Wigan Team Rector Revd Neil Cook neil.cook@churchwigan.org

The Parish of Wigan West

Hub Leader

Rev Fran Humphry 01942 803320

Warden *Ann Birch* 01942 227036

Warden *Martin Gaskell* 01942 741340

Treasurer *Jeff McCann* 07595 882 321

Minute Secretary

None

Clergy Administrator:

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Revd. *Alison Brown* 01942 740777

Assistant Wardens

Carol Simm

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

Miss J Broom 01942 703952

Baptism Team

Margaret Baxendale 07906 615501

Joyce Matthews 07733 108040.

Lifelines St James’ Centre

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 October 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 Executive Headteacher

Mrs S. Aspinwall

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:

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

As the leaves begin to turn and the air grows crisp, we find ourselves once again in the season of harvest a time to give thanks for all that we have been blessed with, and to reflect on the ways we can share those blessings with others. Harvest has always been more than a celebration of crops; it's a reminder of the fruits of our labour, the generosity of our community, and the quiet goodness that grows when we give of ourselves.



This past month has been a wonderful testament to that spirit of giving. Across our parish we have seen generosity in abundance. Our **Macmillan Coffee Mornings** at **St Matthew's, St Paul's, St James' and Wellspring** were a great success, raising an incredible **£1,700** in total. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who baked, brewed, served, and supported. Your kindness will make a real difference to those in need of care and comfort.

As part of our **Harvest offerings**, the gifts collected across our churches will be used to support **Tom's Pantry**, continuing our parish's ongoing commitment to help those who are struggling. Alongside this, your regular giving – both financial and through the giving of time and good deeds – sustains so much of our shared ministry and outreach. Whether it's making a cup of tea for a neighbour, offering a lift to someone who needs it, or simply pausing to listen, these are the acts which build the Kingdom of God among us.

In this season of gratitude, may we remember that every small act of kindness is a seed planted in love, sure to bear fruit in God's time.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

– Galatians 6:9

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.