Wigan West

# PARISH MAGAZINE

**£1 November 2026**



***"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord" Jeremiah 29:11***



Looking back to when I first began ordination training, I knew I was setting out on a journey, but I certainly didn't know everything that journey would hold. There was excitement, anticipation and, if I'm honest, probably a fair amount of wondering what on earth I had got myself into!

My training at Emmanuel Theological College became a significant part of that journey. It was a time of learning, questioning, praying and growing — not simply gaining the knowledge needed for ordained ministry.

Alongside college, my placement within the Newton-le-Willows Team gave me the opportunity to put some of that learning into practice. Ministry began to move from the pages of books and conversations in training into real encounters with people and communities. As with so much of formation, some of the most important lessons were probably learnt not in a classroom but through conversations, relationships and simply being alongside people.

Throughout that journey, Jeremiah 29:11 has been particularly significant: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord… to give you a future with hope."

It is a familiar and comforting verse, often found on fridge magnets, but the more I have travelled this road, the more I have realised that it does not mean God hands us a neatly drawn map at the beginning. I might have appreciated one at times! Instead, there is an invitation to trust that God knows the road ahead even when we can only see the next step.

Then came ordination — one of those moments that had seemed so far away when training began and then suddenly arrived! One of the things that stays with me most strongly from that day is the number of people who came to support me. There were family, friends and people who had shared different parts of the journey, but what particularly touched me was the support from people from Church Wigan and West

Hub, where I will serve my curacy. Some of you came to support and pray for me before you really knew me.

There was something rather wonderful about that. Before we had shared the everyday experiences of parish life, you were already saying, in effect, "We are with you."

And one member of the congregation had even knitted a doll of me — complete with my pink and purple hair! Of all the things I imagined might happen at ordination, having a miniature knitted version of myself was probably not on the list. It remains a treasured reminder of the warmth, humour and welcome I received as this new chapter began.



Curacy brings plenty of new experiences and plenty of "firsts". There is still much to learn, and there are moments when I am reminded that formation certainly did not finish at ordination. But there are also moments when I find myself quietly thinking, *This is what God was preparing me for.*

One of the greatest blessings so far has been conducting baptisms on my own. There is something incredibly special about standing with a family, welcoming someone into the family of the Church, making the sign of the cross and speaking those ancient words of faith and promise.

In moments like those, I sometimes think back to the beginning of training. Back then, so much was unknown. Now I find myself entrusted with these precious moments in the lives of others. It is both humbling and a tremendous privilege.

And so, while Jeremiah 29:11 has been an important verse for the journey into ordained ministry, I find myself carrying another verse into this next stage. Paul writes in Philippians 1:6: "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion."

I love that sense that God has **begun** something.

Training at Emmanuel was part of that work. My placement in Newton-le-Willows was part of it. Ordination, surrounded by so much love and support, was part of it. And now the people, churches and communities of Wigan West are part of it too.

Perhaps one of the biggest things I am learning is that ordination was never the

destination. God is still forming me. I am still learning — through services and sermons, baptisms and conversations, through things that go well and probably even more through the things that don't quite go according to plan.



Jeremiah reminds me that God knows the plans. Philippians reminds me that God hasn't finished yet.

I don't know exactly where the journey will lead from here, and perhaps that is as it should be. For now, I am thankful for the journey that has brought me here, for all those who have walked alongside me, and for the enormous privilege of serving the people God has placed around me.

And somewhere along the way, there will always be a little knitted reminder — pink and purple hair included — that ministry is also filled with unexpected gifts, wonderful people and plenty of reasons to smile.

Thank you for being the welcoming presence for me within Church Wigan!

Blessings

Rev Lindsay (Assistant Curate)

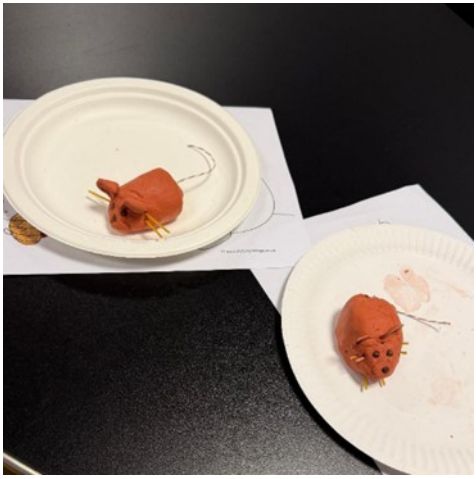



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CHRISTMAS
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St Matthew's
Highfield and Wigan West Hub
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Supporting People Strengthening Communities
£1 PER TICKET
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2nd 2ND HAMPER
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BEER
Drinks hamper from Highfield Community Hall CIC
Highfield Community Hall CIC
3rd 3RD HAMPER
Quality Street
Christmas Hamper from Church Choir
4th 4TH HAMPER
GAMES
Toy Hamper donated by Dorothy Bond and Janette Lyon
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
CHURCH AND FROM CHURCH PARTNERS AND LEADERS
Artwork for illustration purposes only and does not represent the content of the actual hampers.

# St Matthews Rainbows

We are coming to the end of a lovely but a long half term. At Rainbows we have enjoyed lots of fun activities and it has been really great to see some of the girls coming in the newly designed uniform.



We spent one evening playing games which was great fun, getting competitive with a beetle drive. Which girls and leaders found both fun and frustrating! We have also acknowledged and celebrated harvest using clay to make our own harvest mice, as well as spaghetti and lentils to add detail. For our final meeting before the October half term we had a pyjama party to celebrate Eliza's pot of gold party as we say goodbye to her as she leaves us to go to Brownies.

**Rainbow Leaders**

# St. Matthew's 14th Wigan Town Brownies

Since we have returned after summer, we have welcomed three new girls into the pack and hope they enjoy their time with us, and we have started to work on our 'kindness' badge by decorating pebbles.

We invited Carl and Adele from Highfield Clean and Green to our meeting, they brought along equipment to do a litter pick around the hall and the church grounds. The girls showed much knowledge about the effects litter does on our environment and together we collected five bags in under an hour!



We are also taking part in the Art Exhibition organised by Winstanley Art Group, so the girls have drawn pictures of themselves with autumnal hair! We cannot wait to see them on display.

**The Brownie Guider**

## St Matthews Guides

We have been busy with some badge work and completed the Food Critic badge one evening and this involved food tasting and in some cases surprise that the food tasted good!!

This was followed by the Clean Planet badge, and many thanks go to Mrs Andrea Wood who came to our meeting and gave the girls some interesting information on what we could be doing to help the planet. The girls brought some clothes to swap, and everybody went home happy with their new clothes. At the end of the evening, we had fashion parade showing off the new items.

We have had a games night when the girls brought their favourite board games in to play. We also had an evening carving and decorating pumpkins in time for Halloween this turned out to be quite a messy night.

We have welcomed into our Guide unit Mia Stead, Ava Brides and Amelia Speakman who have now made their Guide promise.

**The Guiders, Amy, Georgia and Sheila**

## ***ST JAMES LADIES' FRIENDSHIP GROUP***

This year is going too quickly ! Or is it me ? I was always told that time flies once you turn 21 and how true that statement has been. I also seem to have turned into my mother. I prefer to sit and read a book with a brew rather than go out, especially in the dark, winter months. The clocks go back soon, plunging us into darkness at teatime, and our thoughts will be turning to the Christmas season in no time at all.

We enjoyed the company of Jo Baines in September, who has certainly led, and still does lead, a full life, not without some sadness, putting her trust in God along the way.

Looking forward to the next meeting, November 19th. Marjorie is bringing along Shirley, who was one of the founders of "the Brick" charity. She came to speak to us some years ago when they first opened and is coming to tell us how things have developed over the years. If you're interested in coming along, its 7pm in the lounge at St Clements Court, Worsley Mesnes Drive.

Also in November is the annual church Christmas Fair. Joyce and I will be helping with the raffle again, so any donations will be appreciated. I expect there will be other stalls needing donations too, so anything we can contribute, large or small, will be appreciated.

Looking forward to the December meeting. This will be our Christmas buffet, which is being held in the afternoon, so more details to follow next month.

*Margaret – 07906 615501*
*Please feel free to ring for any information.*

# Highfield Cricket Club –

# A Season to Be Proud Of

As Chairman of Highfield Cricket Club, I am delighted to reflect on another memorable season, both on and off the field.

Our senior teams enjoyed considerable success. The 1st XI finished fourth in Division One of the Liverpool Cricket Competition, winning three cup competitions along the way: the Ray Tyler Cup, the Wigan District T20 Cup and the Wigan T20 Big Bash. Our 3rd XI also had an outstanding season, winning their league and securing promotion, while our 2nd XI continued to develop young players for the future.

However, a cricket club is about much more than results. At Highfield, we are proud of our role within the local community and the opportunities we provide for people of all ages to participate, make friends and develop new skills.

It has been particularly encouraging to see our junior section continue to flourish, alongside the ongoing growth of our girls' and women's cricket. Creating an environment where everyone feels welcome and can enjoy the game is central to our ambitions.

We are also continuing to invest in our facilities and develop plans to ensure the club remains a valued community asset for generations to come.

Looking ahead, one of our biggest community events is our **annual Bonfire Night on Thursday 5th November**. This has become a much-loved occasion, attracting thousands of people from Highfield and the surrounding areas. This year, we are planning an even bigger fireworks display, promising another fantastic evening for families and the wider community. Events like this demonstrate how the club brings people together beyond the cricket field.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, players, parents, sponsors and supporters. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the club's success this year.

As we look to the future, our ambition is to build on these achievements, strengthen our community links and ensure Highfield Cricket Club continues to be a place where people feel welcome, friendships flourish and young people have the opportunity to thrive.

**Mike Gregory**
*Chairman, Highfield Cricket Club*

# The Great St. Paul's Handbag Swap



**18th November.**
**11am-2pm.**



St. Paul's Church and Community Centre.

If you want to swap there is a small donation of £2 in support of 'The Brick'.

All bags must be in a good condition (would you want it?)



Contact Suzanne
07751305105

Wigan Choral Society

*Join us for an evening of festive*

# Carols

*plus*

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

# CHRISTMAS ORATORIO



**SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER 2026**

**7:30PM** St Michael's, Duke Street, Wigan, WN1 2BJ

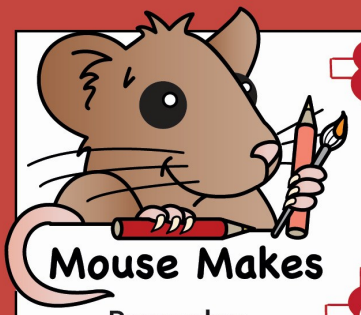
**Musical Director: John Powell**

TICKETS: £15

UNDER 16: FREE

Find us on Facebook or www.wiganchoral.co.uk


ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH · HIGHFIELD, WIGAN
A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC
St. Cecilia's
Day Concert
An afternoon of joyful, uplifting song
Spirituals
Soaring harmonies and timeless songs of hope
Musical Theatre
Show-stopping favourites from stage and screen
PERFORMED BY
St. Matthew's Church Choir
St. Matthew's School Choir
SUNDAY
22nd November 2026
4pm
EVERYONE WELCOME · BRING FAMILY & FRIENDS



# Mouse Makes

**Remember**
the words Jesus said:
*"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*
*Colossians 3:25*

**Remembrance Sunday** is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.

Jesus said:
*"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."*
*John 15:13*

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

REMEMBRANCE • PROTECT • DEFEND • SACRIFICE • SELFLESS • SERVICE
BRAVERY • VALOUR • HONOUR • COURAGE • HEROISM • LOYAL • REGARD
RESPECT • THANKFUL • MEMORIAL • TRIBUTE • COMMEND • ARMISTICE • PEACE

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# Pemberton Christmas Market

The festive season is officially arriving in Pemberton! Mark your calendars for Sunday, 29th November, from 12:00pm until 4:00pm, as the community comes together to host the Pemberton Christmas Market packed with festive cheer, family fun, and holiday shopping.

This year's event spreads the magic across four vibrant locations, making it a wonderful winter walk for visitors of all ages. Chapel Street will come alive with an array of festive stalls showcasing unique gifts, seasonal crafts, and delicious treats. The holiday market atmosphere continues indoor and outdoor at Lamberhead Green Club, St John's Church, and the Redeemed Christian Church of God (the former Trinity Methodist Church building). Whether you are looking to tick off your Christmas shopping list, support local traders, or simply soak up the atmosphere, there is something for everyone.

Families are in for a treat with exciting children's rides running throughout the afternoon. The highlight for the little ones will undoubtedly be a visit to Santa's Grotto, opening its doors at 1:30pm at the Lamberhead Green Club. Children will have the magical opportunity to meet Father Christmas himself and share their holiday wishes. As the afternoon wraps up, the community will gather for a spectacular musical finale. The renowned Trinity Girls Brass Band will be on Chapel Street around 2:00pm, filling the winter air with beautiful, traditional carols to officially close the Christmas event. Chapel Street, WN5 8JP will be closed during the event, and diversions will be in place. So warm up your singing voice, gather your family and friends, and come along for a day filled with community spirit and Christmas joy. Best of all, admission is free and there is lots of free parking available nearby, making it easier than ever to enjoy the festivities. A massive thank you to Mrs Evans (Head Teacher) and Suzanne at Dean Trust Academy for their support again this year, and also Cllr Matt Dawber and HSK Balloons for helping to sponsor the event this year.

St James with St Thomas Church Poolstock

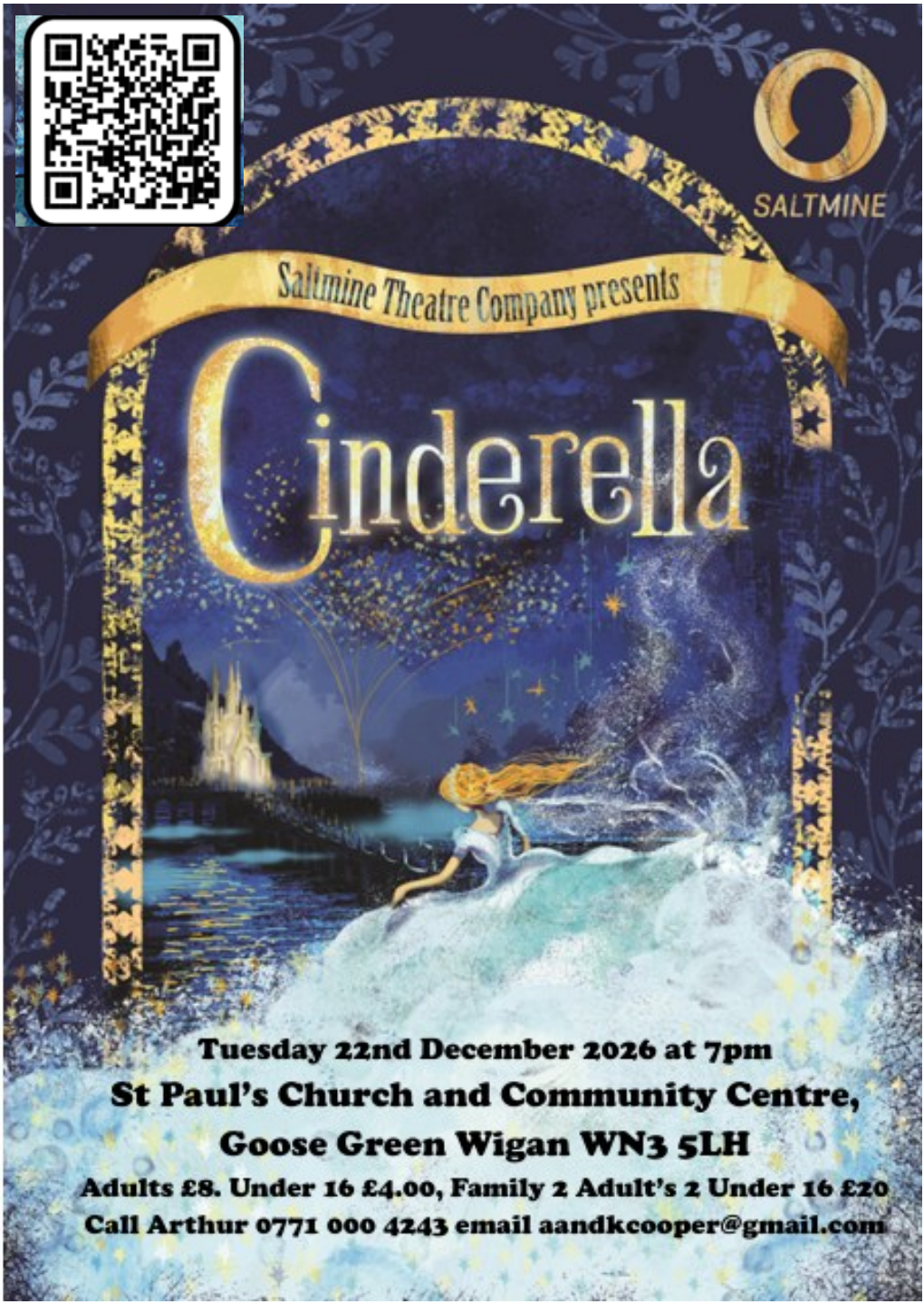
Christmas Fair

In church on Saturday 14th November from 12 noon.



Meet Santa in his Grotto, and enjoy a lite bite in the café, visit our bottle stall, chocolate tombola, raffle stall, toiletries and much more.

All proceeds go to Church Funds.


SALTMINE
Saltmine Theatre Company presents
Cinderella
Tuesday 22nd December 2026 at 7pm
St Paul's Church and Community Centre,
Goose Green Wigan WN3 5LH
Adults £8. Under 16 £4.00, Family 2 Adult's 2 Under 16 £20
Call Arthur 0771 000 4243 email aandkcooper@gmail.com

# November Services

SHINE 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**

**1 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
16.00 Memorial Service
**5 Thursday**
10.30 Holy Communion
**8 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Remembrance & Parade Service
**15 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Holy Communion
**19 Thursday**
11.50 Thursday Prayers
**22 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Morning Praise with Baptisms
16.00 Cecilia's Day service
**29 Sunday**
10.30 Hub Service

## St James with St Thomas

**November**

**1 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word

**8 Sunday**
10.30 Remembrance Service

**15 Sunday**
10.30 All Age Holy Communion

**22 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
18.30 Open Table

**29 Sunday**
10.30 Hub Service @ St Matthew's

## St Paul's

**November**

**1 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Service of the Word with Baptisms

**8 Sunday**
10.30 Remembrance & Family Communion

**11 Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion

**15 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word

**18 Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion

**22 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word

**25 Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion

**29 Sunday**
10.30 Hub Service @ St Matthew's

## Lighthouse

**November**

**1 Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship

**8 Sunday**
14.00 Holy Communion

**15 Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship

**22 Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship

**ALL SERVICES @ THE RUSLING HOME**

# December Services

**SHINE** 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

### December

**3 Thursday**
10.30 Holy Communion
**6 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
**13 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Family Parade & Toy Service
16.00 Christingle
**17 Thursday**
18.00 Prayers
**20 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Holy Communion
16.00 Carol Service
**24 Christmas Eve**
23.30 Midnight Service
**25 Christmas Day**
10.00 Holy Communion
**27 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Morning Praise

## St James with St Thomas

### December

**6 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
**13 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word with Baptisms
**14 Monday**
13.00 Blue Christmas
**20 Sunday**
10.30 All Age Holy Communion
18.30 Carol Service & Open table
**24 Christmas Eve**
16.00 Crib Service
23.30 Midnight Service
**25 Christmas Day**
10.30 Service of the Word
**27 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion

## St Paul's

### December

**6 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Service of the Word with Baptisms
16.00 Memorial Service
**9 Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
**13 Sunday**
10.30 Family Communion
17.00 Carol Service
**16 Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
**20 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
**24 Christmas Eve**
16.00 Christingle Service
**25 Christmas Day**
10.00 Holy Communion
**27 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
**30 Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion

## Lighthouse

### December

**6 Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship
**13 Sunday**
14.00 Holy Communion
**20 Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship
**27 Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship

**ALL SERVICES @ THE RUSLING HOME**

## Faith Café @ St James'

The Faith Café will not be open on Saturday 14th November as we are having our Christmas Fair and it will be closed on Saturday 21st November.

## Bereavement Support @ St James' Centre

.This support group will meet in church on Thursday 12th November and on Monday 30th November at 1pm. Refreshments are served and everyone is welcome to come along whether recently bereaved or if it was some time ago. For further information please speak with David who leads the group on 07404 605015.

## Bible Study @ St James

We will meet on Tuesdays in St James Centre at 12noon to carry on with our Bible Study. We are still journeying through the Acts of the Apostles but as we Advent we will be looking at some Advent material.

## Life Lines Cafe at St James'

Lifelines café will meet in St James Church on Friday 6th November at 1.30pm. We will be doing some Christmas Crafting and will serve a warm snack. There is no charge for the café and we welcome everyone especially those living with dementia and those who care for them.

## Open Table @ St James'

Christie who is Local Missional Leader would like to invite you to a special Open Table Service on Sunday 8th November at 2pm. The service will start with Holy Communion and Revd Wendy Williams will preside. The service will be followed by a roast beef dinner. Everyone is welcome to "come as you are." The normal monthly Open Table meeting will be held on Sunday 28th November at 6.30pm.

## Christmas Greeting Cards

Just a reminder rather than send individual Christmas Cards to your friends you can put a Christmas Greeting in our magazine for a donation to church funds. The easiest way to do this is put your donation in an envelope and write on the front of the envelope what you want printing in the magazine and then give it to me, Revd Alison (St James') and I will make sure it goes in the magazine. In order for it to be in the December issue I will need your donation by **Sunday 8th November.** Thank you.

## St Cecilia Concert–November 22nd @ St Matthew's

This year our annual St. Cecilia's celebrations will be slightly different. It will be a mixture of sacred and secular pieces of music. Some spirituals, some songs from the shows and some solo items. Also, Highfield School choir will be joining us. The celebrations begin at 4pm. Please come and join us for this feast of music.

## Important Information

If your name and telephone number is listed at the back of this magazine as a contact, can you please review and advise if there has been any changes made to any of our editors?

## Special Donation

I received a letter from a gentleman who now lives in Knutsford together with a very generous donation to church funds after a recent visit to Wigan and particularly to St. Matthew's. The letter reads:

*"This morning I visited your church graveyard where my brother and mother are buried and was very surprised to find how clean, tidy and well-kept the area was. It really is a credit to all who tend the area with such obvious dedication. Thank you to all".*

**John Dawson**

## Macmillan




Thank you so much to everyone who contributed in any way to the Macmillan Coffee Morning appeal. Together as a Parish we raised £1830, an amazing amount to help the work of this charity which close to many of our hearts.

***MAGAZINE DEADLINE***

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

If you would like a copy of the magazine in **LARGE PRINT** please email Barbara at hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org

# UKRAINE STILL NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

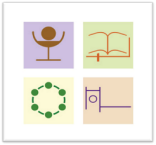
Please pray for Ukraine.

Can you help with our Ukraine appeal?

Please donate cash or goods.

Call Vitalii on 07476 778083 to arrange delivery or collection.

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



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

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Tel: 0333 002 1260

GOOSE GREEN
ST. PAUL'S C.E PRIMARY

# Little Stars

## Toddler Group

STARTS: 07/09/2026

A friendly group for little ones and their grown-ups!

9:00am - 11:00am
**MONDAYS**
during term time

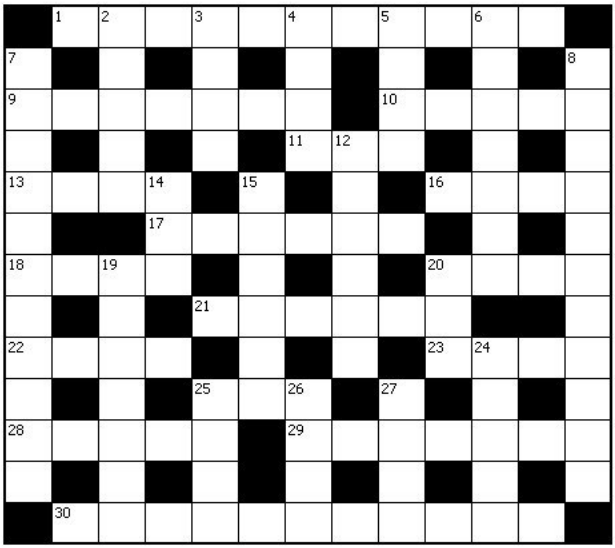
ALL WELCOME!

**£2**
**ONE ADULT AND CHILD**
additional children are 50p each

**CHILDREN AGED BIRTH - 4**




**FREE PLAY | SNACKS | STORY TIME | SINGING**



**Across**

1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all _, Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)

9 Mosesí question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)

10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)

11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)

13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)

16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)

17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)

18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)

20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)

21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)

22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)

23 Infectious tropical disease (4)

25 Tree (3)

28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)

29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)

30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

**Down**

2 'O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)

3 Way out (4)

4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)

5 Done (anag.) (4)

6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)

7 Concerning the study of God (11)

8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)

12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)

14 Frozen (3)

15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)

19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)

20 See 1 Across

24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)

25 Time (anag.) (4)

26 Lists choice of meals (4)

27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in

# Word Search

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

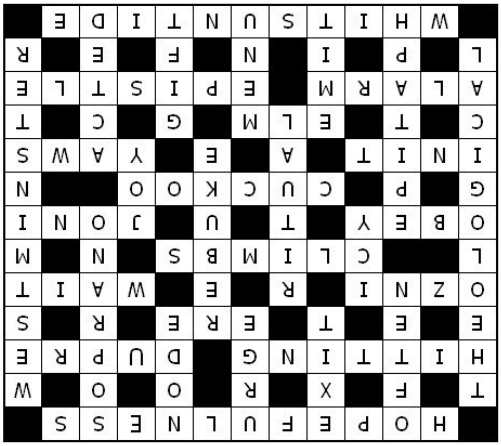
But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

Those endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such horror, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| World | Barren | Poppies | Cheerful |
| War | Bleak | Mud | Growing |
| France | Destroyed | Chaos | Horror |
| Flanders | Spring | Seeds | Doctor |
| Green | Destruction | Grow | poem |
| Fields | Bright | Soil | |
| Bombed | Red | | |





## 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.




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

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

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

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

## Donations

Donation to church funds from Russell & Nic £20.
Donation to church funds from Dave & Val £120
Thank you to all who supported our Hot Pot Supper @ St James' we raised £120 for Church Funds.
In lieu of altar flowers **from Brenda Jones**
In lieu of altar flowers **from Barabra Jenks**

## Altar Flowers

**St. Matthew's**

1st Nov – vacant
8th Nov – Mrs D Kirk
15th Nov – Mrs K Woods
22nd Nov – Mrs J Connelly
29th Nov - vacant

## 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

| | |
|---|---|
| Ezra Michael James Faulkner | St Paul's |
| Colbie Robert Quinn | St James' |
| Noah Jack Smart | St James' |
| Willow Lilia Smart | St James' |
| Daisy Robyn Lyno-Unsworth | St Matthew's |
| Albert Gary James Davies | St Matthew's |

## Burials and Funerals

### St James with St Thomas

### St Matthew's

### St Paul's

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 15/09/26 | Ivy Ratcliffe | aged 94 |
| 13/08/26 | Lorraine Davies | aged 75 |
| 19/08/26 | Mark Williams | aged 65 |

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

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

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

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

***The Parish of Wigan West***

Hub Leader
*Rev Fran Humphry* 01942 803320
Warden *Ann Birch* 01942 227036
Warden *Martin Gaskell* 01942 741340
Treasurer *Jeff McCann* 07595 882 321
Minute Secretary
*None*
Clergy Administrator:
Barbara Poyntz 07845 947 573
Magazine Editors
*June Gibson* 01942 703096
jngibson@hotmail.co.uk
*Paul Nolan* 01942 804810
pnolan1972@yahoo.co.uk
Printing:
*Sam Rusling* sam@jesandsam.com
Distribution:
*John Dawson &*
*Lyn Starkie* 01942 494715

***St James' with St Thomas'***

Distinctive Deacon Revd. *Alison Brown*
07806 798030
Assistant Wardens
*Carol Simm*
Jo Baines 07956 030669
Organist *David Goulden* 01942 245710
Flowers *Jean Hogan* 01942 492888
Bereavement Support
*David Berry* 01942 386987
Sunday School
*Jodie* 07549810711
Primary School Executive Headteacher
Miss J Broom 01942 703952
Baptism Team
Margaret Baxendale 07906 615501
Joyce Matthews 07733 108040.

***Lifelines*** *St James' Centre*
Revd. *Alison Brown* 07806 798030

***Little Stars*** *St Paul's Hall*
*Lucy Haigh 07900 252 361*

***Wellspring*** *St Paul's Hall*
Local Missional Leader
*Lucy Haigh* 07900 252 361

***Lighthouse***
Local Missional Leaders:
*Jes Rusling* 07827 326 290
jes@jesandsam.com
*Sam Rusling* 077 22 99 4923
sam@jesandsam.com

***Shine*** *St Matthew's School*
*Rev Sam Swan*
*sam.swan@churchwigan.org*

*All information correct as of October2026*

***St Matthew's***

Assistant Wardens
- *Andrea Wood* 07734 447699
- *Sheila Albers*
- *Elizabeth Gaskell*

Reader *Colin Hesketh* 07712 431105

Organist *Sue Gordon* 01942 214955

Deputy Organist
- *Colin Hesketh* 07712 431105

Bereavement Support
- *Iain Matthewson* 07595 898737

Bowling Club
- *Keith Harris* 01942 211518

Choir *Sue Gordon* 01942 214955

Church Fellowship
- *Matthew Jones* 07930 867209

Cuppa & Chat
- *Barbara Jenks* 01942 213101

Friendship Group

Boys Brigade
- *Jim Harrison* 01942 218465

Guides:
- Rainbows
  - *Jennifer Halliwell* 01257 433894 Or 07808811490
  - *Gill Marsh* 01942 207723
- Brownies
  - *Joanne Tabener/Elizabeth Gaskell* *14thwigantownbrownies@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 417653*
- *Geoff Birch* 01942 227036

Reader Emeritus *Arthur Hubbard* 01942 321977

Reader *Gordon Fath* 01942 621173

Flowers *Pam Wilkinson* 01942 417653

Mother's Union
- *Anne Hubbard* 01942 321977

Sunday School
- *Lucy Haigh* 07900 252 361

Craft Workshop
- *Gillian Greenwood* 01942 825670

Friends Together
- *Lynn Conroy 01942202249*
- *Linda Berry 01942 492521*

House Groups
- *Anne & Arthur Hubbard* 01942 321977
- *Mike & Gill Greenwood* 01942 825670

Primary School Headteacher
- *Mrs K Mowbray* 01942 243068

***Need to book a hall?***

St Matthew's Church Hall:
- *Matthew Jones* 07930 867209

St James Centre:

Revd. *Alison Brown* 07806 798030

St Paul's Church Hall:
- *Darren Speakman* 07456 840803

**BAPTISMS** If you wish to enquire about Baptism please attend a 10.30am service at any of our churches and ask to speak to someone from the Baptism Team afterwards.

**WEDDINGS** *Gordon Fath*: wedding.west@churchwigan.org

**FUNERALS** Church Wigan Funeral Coordinator: 01942 705641, 07754 569022, funeral.coordinator@churchwigan.org

# Wardens Corner

## Growing Together: Church and Community



Last month, I wrote about our wonderful churchyard volunteers and the benefits of giving time to help others. This month, I want to celebrate another encouraging development: the growing relationship between St Matthew's Church and Highfield Clean & Green.

What began as a litter-picking group has grown into something much wider, with a real desire to bring people together and make Highfield a better place to live. We are delighted that Clean & Green is keen to work alongside the church and other local organisations.

St Matthew's has been part of Highfield's story for generations. It is heartening to know that the church remains important to local people, including those who may not regularly attend services. We are not simply a building for Sunday worship; we are part of the community's shared history, its present life and its future.

The proposed Memorial and Community Garden on our land at Foundry Lane offers an opportunity to strengthen those connections. While the plans are still being developed, the real value lies in the possibility of people working together, sharing ideas and creating something that benefits the whole community.

As St Paul reminds us, we are all different parts of one body, each with something to contribute. That is true of our church, our volunteers and the wider community. By working together, we can achieve far more than any one group could alone.

As Christians, we are called to love our neighbours and care for the world entrusted to us. Sometimes that means simply lending a hand, looking after a shared space or helping someone feel they belong. Small acts of service can make a lasting difference.

My hope is that our partnership with Clean & Green will continue to grow, alongside our relationships with other local groups. I thank everyone who gives their time, energy and enthusiasm to making Highfield a better place.

As Ecclesiastes reminds us, *"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour."* May we continue to work together in friendship, service and care for our community.