

Wigan West



# PARISH MAGAZINE

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him' John 3: 16-17



£1 March 2025



Firstly, I would like to introduce myself, just in case you haven't yet met me. I am the Reverend Alison Brown, and I am a Distinctive Deacon in West Hub. I am based at St James with St Thomas Church. As a Deacon my role is to gather us as a community together. This is my first opportunity to write to you as Deacon following my ordination in June 2024.



As you read this letter, Spring should well and truly have sprung, the clocks have been put forward one hour and we can now look forward to lengthening daylight hours and warmer weather. I don't know about you, but the light nights always make me feel better, and I consider it one of nature's tonics. As always, I am hopeful for a good summer with plenty of warm sunshine.

During April we will journey with Jesus through Holy Week, re-enact the last supper with a service of Holy Communion and foot washing, reflect on Good Friday as he suffered on the cross and then experience the joy of His resurrection on that first Easter Day. We have services across the Parish, at St James with St Thomas, St Pauls, St Matthews, and Lighthouse which meets at St James' School and you are most welcome to come and worship with us over the Easter period and at all other times too. You will be able to find the times of our special services in this magazine.

I wish you all a most joyful Eastertide. He is Risen; He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

God Bless—Alison

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## St Matthews Guides

On our return after the half term break, we celebrated Thinking Day, the birth of our founder Olave Baden-Powell, with an activity evening which was attended by Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides from our district of Wigan West. The theme of the evening was around some of the world centres in International Guiding.



The following week we had pancakes which is always a popular night with some of the girls actually tossing their pancakes and none landed on the floor.

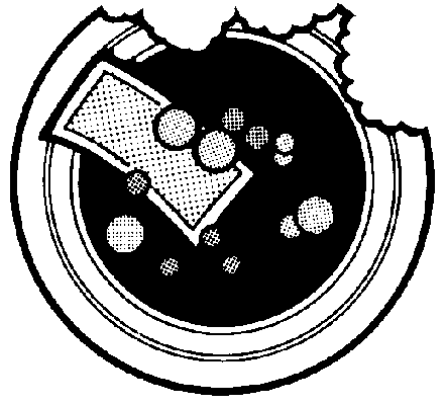
We have also had an entertaining night of Karaoke which was requested by some of the girls this also involved dressing up as their favourite star.

The Guiders

## Mystery of the Offertory plates

You will recall the mystery of the set of three pewter Offertory Plates in our church which logic said had been donated to St. Matthew's by our mother Church St. John the Divine in Pemberton. All were engraved with the names of two Churchwardens Thomas Moorfield and George Cauldwell and dated 1825. They had, we thought, donated the plates to St. John's church who later passed them on to us when St. Matthew's was opened in 1897. What we found difficult to explain was that St. John's, being a 'Waterloo Church', one of those built with Government Funds in gratitude for the British victory over Napoleon in 1815 at The Battle of Waterloo, was only built in 1832. Where were the plates from 1825 until 1832? Well, we now know!

Thanks to the detective work of William Sharp and his lovely sister Pat, we discover that Messrs. Moorfield and Cauldwell were actually Churchwardens of Wigan Parish Church in 1825, the mother church of St. John the Divine. The plates were donated by them firstly to the Parish Church of All Saints and only eight years later again donated to St. John's upon its opening. This is backed up by the fact that an identical set of pewter plates were also donated to another 'Waterloo Church' built in Wigan and also dedicated and opened in 1832. This church is another daughter church of All Saints Parish Church and is St. David's at Haigh. Precisely what Messrs. Moorfield and Cauldwell thought of their six plates, bought by them, probably at a not inconsiderable cost, being re-donated to two other churches only eight years later is not known. There was a change in incumbency at All Saints Parish Church at about that time. Perhaps the new Rector wanted a 'clear out' of the old. It is highly unlikely that any of them would have been around 65 years later when three of the plates were again passed on to St. Matthew's Church.



The winner of the competition is therefore William Sharp, and he will be welcome to take the Offertory at his convenience. Or not. Whatever he chooses. We are thankful to both of the Sharpe's for their detective work in this matter and all the other work they have and continue to do concerning the history of all the churches in the Wigan Deanery and in particular St. Matthew's Highfield. It shows that all things are open to everyone, but only if you know where to look!

## ST JAMES LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP

February is the shortest month by only 2 or 3 days, but it always seems to go quickly! Here we are in the middle of March (as I am writing this).

We had St David on the 1<sup>st</sup>, then St Patrick on the 17<sup>th</sup>, which is followed by St George on the 23 April. We have a flurry of daffodils, leeks, dragons, potato recipes, leprechauns, shamrocks, (Guinness?), more dragons, red roses, and of course, England flags.

Due to having to write one month in front (and behind!), I would like to say that at the ladies' group in February, our Beryl Bowker did a great job as speaker. Although visibly nervous, she spoke passionately about how she has come through adversity in her life and is an advocate against bullying.

We are to welcome Gary Humphry as our speaker in March. Many of us know him as "the vicar's husband" and we're looking forward to getting to know him better.

Easter this year falls very late in the month, so were hoping to have a spring themed craft night on 17 April, which is our next meeting. ☒

Jean Hogan has once again offered to come and help us create something floral after the success of the Christmas table decorations. If you still have the jar you used, you may want to re-use it or feel free to bring something of a similar size.

Please come along to this meeting if you're interested!

All the meetings are 7pm in the lounge at St Clements Court, Worsley Mesnes Drive.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided, there's no charge, although we have a voluntary collection.

Please come along to any of our meetings that you like the sound of, and although we're the Ladies Friendship group, gentlemen are welcome too!

*Margaret - 07906 615501*

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## Highfield Cricket Club

We are almost ready for the cricket season!

Junior and senior players alike have been attending the winter indoor nets programme, honing their skills and fitness. We have a couple of new captains, in Ryan Allen for the second XI and Jack Cunliffe for third XI. Mike Farrell continues as first XI skipper and his squad will be strengthened by the return of ace allrounder Mohit Jangra, who will fly in from Delhi in time for the start of the season, hoping for a repeat of his stellar performances last

year. Good luck to Mike, Ryan, and Jack and all of the junior coaches who do such great work with our talented youngsters.

Our grounds team have also been hard at work throughout the winter. Our beautiful ground is maintained by wonderful volunteers, but we still need to buy fertiliser and loam and also diesel for the various machinery, whilst the ongoing maintenance of our drainage system also requires funding. So here is a great way to support the club in generating funds for ground maintenance and improvements. And it's so easy!

Highfield Cricket Club is now registered with easy fundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use easy fundraising to shop with them - at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easy fundraising page at <https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk/causes/highfield-cricket-club-wigan/> Or take a look at our Club Facebook or X (twitter) pages and get the link there.

Please do sign up as per the steps in the link. It's easy and a great way to support a 100-year-old community sports club like Highfield Cricket Club. You don't need to change where you buy and what you buy, but the club gets a small commission which over time will really make a difference. Thank you.

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

Finally for this month, we are excited to announce the appointment of Arthur Martin Gaskell as Highfield Cricket Club's first Chaplain! Martin has been a dedicated member of our club for many years, serving in various roles and making a lasting impact on and off the field. As part of the Church Wigan Sports Chaplaincy group, he has always been a supportive presence at the club. Martin believes this new role won't change much of what he already does - continuing his interactions with members and providing his presence at the club. He feels called to serve in this way, and we're grateful for his commitment to supporting our members, both personally and spiritually. We look forward to seeing Martin's continued involvement and the positive influence he will bring as our Chaplain. Welcome to the next chapter, Martin!

# April 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 April

2 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
3 **Thursday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
6 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
9 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
13 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP Holy Communion  
10.30 Parade Service  
18.30 'The Saviour'  
17 **Maundy Thursday**  
18.30 Holy Communion  
18 **Good Friday**  
10.00 Service  
20 **Easter Sunday**  
9.00 BCP Holy Communion  
10.30 Holy Communion  
12.30 Baptisms  
23 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
27 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP Communion  
10.30 Morning Praise  
30 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer

### St James with St Thomas April

6 **Sunday**  
10.30 Morning Worship  
13 **Sunday**  
10.30 Morning Worship  
17 **Maundy Thursday**  
18.30 Holy Communion  
18 **Good Friday**  
14.00 Last Hour  
20 **Easter Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
27 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
18.30 Open Table

### St Paul's April

6 **Sunday**  
9.00 Holy Communion  
10.30 Baptisms  
9 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
13 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
16 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
18 **Good Friday**  
11.00 Service  
20 **Easter Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
23 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
27 **Sunday**  
10.30 Family worship  
30 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion

### Lighthouse April

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

**ALL SERVICE IN ST JAMES' SCHOOL**

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

WiganWestHub 



# Church WIGAN



## Tom's Pantry

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

Tuesday 9.30-12noon

Wednesday 9.30-12noon

Thursday 5-6pm

Friday 9.30-12noon

Saturday 11-2pm alongside our Faith Café

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

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

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

*Please check Notices for Easter Opening times*

Tom' s Pantry will be closed on the evening of Thursday 17 April as it is Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. The pantry will open Saturday between 10 & 12 noon and then close until Tuesday 22 April when normal hours will resume.

## 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

## Lifelines Café

Lifelines Café will meet in St James Centre on Friday 4 April at 1.30pm. We will meet, have tea and cake and we will welcome Carol who will be showing us some chair exercises to music of course. Everyone is welcome to come to the café and we particularly welcome those living with dementia and their carers. For more information about Lifelines café and choir, contact Revd Alison Brown on 07806 798030.

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## Lifelines Choir

The choir will meet on Monday 7 April at 1pm. We will only have the one meeting this month because of the Easter break. This is an inclusive choir which welcomes new members. There is no audition, just an enthusiasm to sing. Refreshments will be served and there is no charge for this activity.

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## Open Table

Open Table Holy Communion will be at St James with St Thomas Church on Sunday 27 April 2025 at 6pm. 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.

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## Bereavement Support

Our bereavement support group will meet in St James church on Thursday 11 April at 1pm and again on Monday 28 April at the same time. You are most welcome to attend our bereavement support group if you have been recently bereaved or it was some time ago. The group offers group support and if needed can offer one to one support. Refreshments are always served, and our leader Mr David Berry will make you most welcome. He can be contacted on 07404 605015.

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## Faith Café

Our wonderful Faith Café will be closed on Saturday, 19 April to give our lovely volunteers an Easter break. However, there will be an Easter Egg trail, crafts, hot cross buns, refreshments and a prize egg for completing the outdoor Easter story trail! This will all take place at **St Paul's Hall, Warrington Rd WN3 6SB** between 2 & 4pm. Faith Café will be back open 26 April 11-2pm at St James' .



## Service of the Word with Brunch

Our service of the word with brunch was very well received in March with around thirty people staying to enjoy bacon & sausage barm. In fact, we liked it so much we will be doing it again on Sunday 6 April, immediately following the service.

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## Easter Holiday Free Lunch

On Tuesday 8 April between 12 & 2pm St James' will be serving free lunch for families. The lunch will also include activities based around Palm Sunday. No need to book just turn up.

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## Pop Up Sale

On Wednesday 9 April in St James Centre, "Rebuild with Hope" will be holding a pop up sale of High St quality goods at heavily discounted prices. All proceeds will go to Rebuild with Hope and West Hub. The sale starts 10.30am so come along grab a bargain and then enjoy a cuppa and a snack in our café.

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## Palm Sunday

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

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

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## Deeper Discipleship

There will be no Deeper Discipleship this month as it falls on Easter Day

David Goulden & Alison Brown

**At St Paul's Church & Community  
Centre**

**St Paul's Ave Goose Green Wigan  
WN3 5LH**

**Saturday 5th April 7.30pm**

**Wargrave Community**



**Rhythms in Spring  
Concert**

**Choir's**

**Tickets £10.00**

**From Arthur 01942 223351**

**At St Pauls Church**

**Or Alison 0791 076 6314**

**At Wargrave Community Choir**

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

Free Play, Snacks, Story Time & Singing!

## Little Stars Toddler Group

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

### MONDAYS 9:30am - 11am

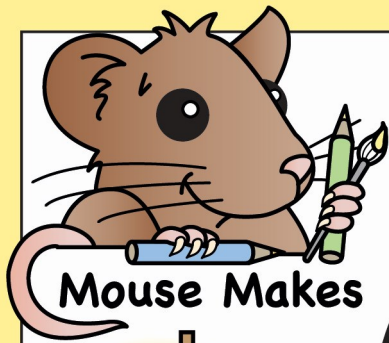
Cost is only £1.50 for  
ONE adult & child

(Additional child is 50p)

From Birth to  
School Age Children!



## All Welcome!



## Mouse Makes



On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.  
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,  
and showed us the resurrection to  
come by His raising to new life!



## Jesus is risen!

The angel said:  
"Jesus ...is not here, for He  
has risen, just as He said."  
*Matthew 28:6*



## Jesus is here

Jesus said:  
"Where two or three  
come together  
in my name I am  
there with them."  
*Matthew 18:20*



**READ** the story of  
the resurrection in:  
**Matthew 28:1-10**  
**Mark 16:1-19**  
**Luke 24:1-49**  
**John 20:1-29**  
and **21:1-14**

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



## Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:  
"I will come back  
and take you to  
myself so that you  
will be where I am."  
*John 14:3*



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN  
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING  
RESURRECTION  
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER  
CHRIST • SON OF GOD  
HOSANNA • PRAISE  
GO TELL • EASTER



## Change to Double Issue Dates

It has been decided to make a change to the summer months for our double issue. Currently July & August are combined but we will be combining August & September for this year and beyond. This is mainly due to the fact that assembling and printing of the magazine usually happens the preceding month and as August is heavily affected by holiday dates it makes more sense for the editors and printers to be relieved of the stress during this month. Please take into consideration this move and providing articles for September to be ready for mid-July. Thank you for your understanding.  
The Editors

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)

### PASTORAL CARE

If anyone requires Pastoral Care the contact number is 07881 792451 Barbara Poyntz.

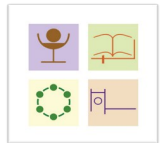
(If answer machine please leave message)

If it is an emergency, please ring any phone number in the Parish Magazine, Thank you.



**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

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



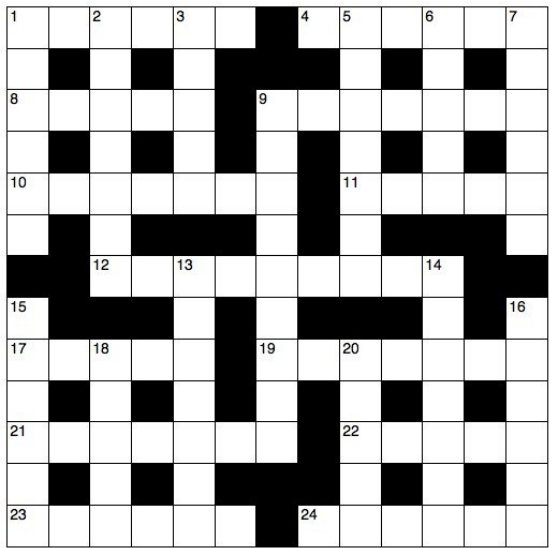
This Parish is registered with the Parish Giving Scheme which allows you to give to this Parish securely and safely online. Please click 'Regular Giving' to set up a monthly, quarterly, or annual Direct Debit or One-Off Gift or make a single gift using your Debit or Credit Card.

**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



**Across**

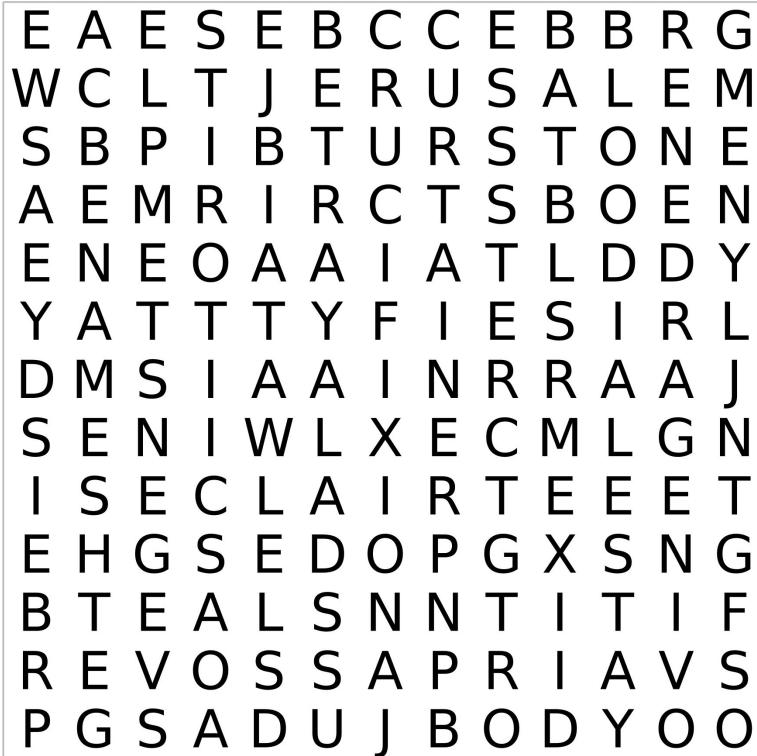
- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

**Down**

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

# Word Search

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter - the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life. But because He does live, we have a sure and certain hope for our



- |          |             |          |          |
|----------|-------------|----------|----------|
| passover | jerusalem   | soldiers | tomb     |
| bread    | pilate      | cross    | angel    |
| wine     | judas       | nails    | stone    |
| body     | gethsemane  | vinegar  | risen    |
| blood    | trial       | temple   | gardener |
| betrayal | crucifixion | curtain  | Mary     |

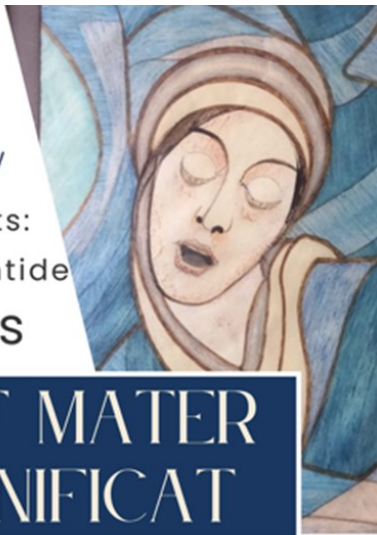


Wigan Choral Society

Presents:

Music for Passiontide

# Pergolesi's



# STABAT MATER & MAGNIFICAT

**Musical Director:** John Powell  
**Accompanist:** Russell Medley  
**Soloists:** Lucy Farrimond, Soprano  
Helen Anne Gregory, Mezzo Soprano



Choir and soloists join in Pergolesi's famous, and very poignant, Stabat Mater.

**Saturday, 5th April 2025, 7:30pm**  
St Michael's, Duke Street, Wigan, WN1 2BJ

**Tickets £10 from choir members or on the door**

Registered Charity No: 1155474

Follow us on Facebook:  
Wigan Choral Society

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

**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

**Altar Flowers -  
St. Matthew's**

- 6 April - vacant
- 13 April - Mrs A Wood
- 20 April - Easter flowers
- 27 April - Mrs M Hart





## Baptisms

Willow Grace Olleveant–Prior

*St Paul' s*

Harry King *St Matthew' s*

Alice Jane Turner *St Matthew' s*

Arthur Andrew Carl Whyte

*St Matthew' s*

## Burials and Funerals

### St James with St Thomas

24/1/25 Sheila Urmston,  
aged 82

16/2/25 John Andrew  
Unsworth, age 49

## Donations

For altar flowers with love

**From the Friendship Group in memory of loved ones**

Donation to church funds

**From Glen & Dave Snape**

St. Matthew's church funds of £100 from  
Barbara Jenks

**From "Monday Cuppa" club**

Special memories of Mum

**From Christine & John**

In loving memory of Connie Martlew

**From Linda Berry**

In loving memory of Connie

**From Linda, Stephen, and family**

In loving memory of "Grannie Connie" with  
love

**From Paul, Natalie, and famil**

Treasured memories of Arthur Stockley

**From loving wife Janet**

A donation in lieu of altar flowers with love

**From Alan & Madge**

A donation to church funds

**From Pat & Will Sharpe for providing access to church for research purposes.**

To Christine and family in memory of a  
loving Mum and Grandma "Connie". May  
she rest in peace and rise in glory with love

**From Linda.**

Birthday memories of Derek Longhurst our  
loving Dad, Grandad & Great Grandad

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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)

*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*

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

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

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

**Church Wigan** Team Rector *Revd Neil Cook* 01942 242984

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

Hub Leader

*Rev Fran Humphry* 01942 803320

Warden *Ann Birch* 01942 227036

Warden *Martin Gaskell* 01942 741340

Treasurer *Jeff McCann* 07595 882 321

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*Sam Rusling* *sam@jesandsam.com*

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### **St James’ with St Thomas’**

Distinctive Deacon

*Alison Brown* 01942 740777

Assistant Wardens

*Carol Simm*

*Tracey Mathioudakis* 07377467678

*tracymathioudakis7@gmail.com*

Organist *David Goulden* 01942 245710

Flowers *Iris Wright* 01942 493850

Flowers *Jean Hogan* 01942 492888

Bereavement Support

*David Berry* 01942 386987

Sunday School

*Jodie* 07549810711

Primary School Executive Headteacher

*Mrs A Jackson* 01942 703952

### **Lifelines** *St James’ Centre & Eliot Gardens*

Distinctive Deacon

*Alison Brown* 01942 740777

### **Little Stars** *St Paul’s Hall*

*Lucy Haigh* 07900 252 361

### **Wellspring** *St Paul’s Hall*

Local Missional Leader

*Lucy Haigh* 07900 252 361

### **Lighthouse**

Local Missional Leaders:

*Jes Rusling* 07827 326 290

*jes@jesandsam.com*

*Sam Rusling* 077 22 99 4923

*sam@jesandsam.com*

### **Shine** *St Matthew’s School*

*Rev Sam Swan*

*sam.swan@churchwigan.org*

*All information correct as of March 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*

*14thwigtownbrownies@gmail.com*

Guides

*Helen Albers* 07960 920587

Primary School Headteacher

*Mrs A Barron* 01942 747818

### **St Paul's**

Assistant Wardens

*Cliff Unsworth* 01942 933772

*Maureen Gower* 01942 234410

*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](mailto:wedding.west@churchwigan.org)

**FUNERALS** Church Wigan Funeral Coordinator: 01942 705641, 07754 569022, [funeral.coordinator@churchwigan.org](mailto:funeral.coordinator@churchwigan.org)

# Wardens Corner



As we approach Easter we are seeing exciting developments across our worship communities, each of them contributing to the life and spirit of our Parish community in different and meaningful ways.

At **St Paul's**, it's truly heartening to see our community activity beginning to grow following the re-ordering. The buzz of new initiatives and involvement is palpable, as we continue to expand our outreach programs and provide a space for people to connect, reflect, and serve. We are so thankful for the dedication of our volunteers, who make these events possible, and we encourage everyone to get involved in any way they can. The vitality of our community is what makes St Paul's so special, and we are eager to see it continue to flourish.

Meanwhile, **St James'** continues to shine brightly as a beacon of hope and service to the wider community. The warmth and openness that define St James' are more important than ever, as we continue to provide support and a listening ear for those in need. The church's role in reaching out and offering a space for connection, especially in these uncertain times, cannot be overstated.

At **St Matthew's**, we are witnessing the first signs of growth, which is incredibly encouraging. With the ongoing alterations and improvements to our facilities, we hope these changes will serve as a catalyst for even more vibrant activity in the future. The enhancements to our building are designed not only to create a more welcoming environment but also to better support the various activities that bring people together. We are excited for what lies ahead and look forward to welcoming new faces and building even stronger bonds within our congregation.

In broader community news, our local MP has launched a petition to complete the M6/M61 link road, a project that has the potential to transform our Parish in very positive ways. It's an exciting time, and we encourage all members of the Parish to lend their support to this petition. Together, we can help bring this important project to life, benefiting all those who call our community home.

As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement in the life of our worship communities. Your commitment and passion are what make all of these wonderful changes possible. Let us continue to pray for one another, support each other, and work together to build a strong, loving, and thriving community.

God bless you all,

**Martin**