

Wigan West

PARISH MAGAZINE



"The desert and the
parched land will be
glad; the wilderness
will rejoice and
blossom. Like the
crocus"
Isaiah 35:1

Church



WIGAN

October 2021

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 Pauls, and St Matthews.

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.

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We are looking to build teams to help lead these services, particularly Services of the Word. Please contact Mark Wade if you are interested and he will connect you with the relevant leaders.

The joy of this new rhythm of worship is that there should be a different style of worship at each service, and the opportunity to go to whichever style you prefer that day. Also that there is something being offered across the parish each day. A church open seven days a week worshipping in so many different ways!

St Matthews

October

- 3 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 10 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 All Age Parade Service
- 17 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Holy Communion
12.30 Baptism Service
- 24 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Service of the Word

Services

St James with St Thomas

October

- 3 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion with
Sunday School
- 10 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word with
Sunday School
- 17 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word with
Sunday School
- 24 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion

St Pauls

October

- 3 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Baptism Service
- 6 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion
Refreshments from 10.00
- 10 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion with
Sunday School
- 13 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion
Refreshments from 10.00
- 17 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word with
Sunday School
- 20 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion
Refreshments from 10.00
- 24 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
- 27 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion
Refreshments from 10.00



Wellspring: Every Wednesday:
3.30-5pm St Pauls Hall and School
(at present meeting 2pm-3pm)



Lighthouse: Every Friday after
school at St James Centre. Walking
bus going from St James School.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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

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



WgarWestHub

Dear Friends,

This last month we have been looking at the vision of Wigan, but instead of being spoken to, we have been creating spaces and ways that this is a conversation. As a preacher, I have really enjoyed doing this. I was reminded in week one of why I came to Wigan and my first visit to Wigan. One of my main memories of that visit was arriving from the M6 and the big roundabout having a sign and a great decorated roundabout saying National Bloom awards 2016, then 500 yards down the road seeing this sign. Believe is such an important word here in Wigan, from serving with the council a lot over the last two years this is such an important message. Believe is a huge message for us, God's Church. This is what we want from our town of Wigan to Believe. To believe in the vision in Wigan but above that Believe the Kingdom of heaven is near. After one of the services, I spoke with one of our members who said this.



"We need to keep talking about Jesus, the Kingdom is the most important thing for us to be talking about"

Amen. This is what I am excited about in serving in Wigan that we are Jesus focused, seeking the Kingdom, listening to what God is asking of us.

I am looking forward to joining together on the 16th of October, I have missed those opportunities to join together, to pray together, to dream together, to listen to each other. One of the biggest and hardest prayers I love to pray is, asking God to break my heart for what breaks yours. I believe this is one of the key prayers we need to be praying in the coming weeks and months as we look forward to moving forward together, serving together and sharing together. As we have reflected over the last few months we could not have predicted the last 18 months and we cannot predict the next either, but what we can do is join together and seek together in what we as a Parish should be doing and not doing.

In our vision for Wigan booklets at the very top it said this:

*"Through Jesus transformed people,
transformed place"*

Then as we read on we are reminded of these great biblical words:

*Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on
earth as in heaven"*

However you may be feeling, how you heard the teaching and conversations I invite you



to pray these simple prayers as we move into this next season of our great history in Wigan.

Break my heart for what breaks yours?

God, how are you asking me to respond?

This is a great moment for us to be responding, to be refreshing congregations, planting new ones. Seeking and seeing people come to know Jesus. As you read this our Alpha course would have just started why not come or come and invite someone. Imagine everyone in Wigan believing, everyone talking about Jesus, everyone being kingdom focused. This could be what happens, however it starts with you.

So my question is this what are you going to do?

God bless

Mark

Verse for

Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven"

Matthew 6: 10

Wigan West Administrator

My name is Barbara Poyntz and I am the administrator for the parish of Wigan West, I also work as an admin for the North West and Town Centre parishes. I started this role in August and have now had the pleasure of meeting with or e-mailing with many of you. I would like to thank those that I have been in contact with for your continued friendly support as we work together. I look forward to meeting more of you as time goes on.



My role has the aim of taking some of the administrative burden off Mark and other members of the leadership team and wider worship communities. I hope to be able to free Mark and others to do more of the ministry that is so vital to this community.

My working days are Monday—Friday. I currently work three days in the office and two days working from home, I am available by e-mail on: hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org or on the following numbers: Church Wigan office: 01942 410910 (this may be a voicemail service, but messages are sent through to me) or on my work mobile: 07881792451. I may not always be available to respond immediately, but I will get back to you.

Children and young people provision on Sundays and in the week

One of the things that we are excited about is being able to welcome our families back and offering Sunday provision in a number of different ways.

Children of all ages are welcome at any of our services and our hope is that they will be able to engage either with the service or with the groups provided for them.



St Pauls: We shall be starting junior church for 4-13 year olds, activities for toddlers, and space for babies. Our teenagers are invited to come in and help.

This will happen every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday of each month. The first Sunday of each month will be an all-age baptism service. We are working out whether the best and safest place to offer this is at St Paul's Church or St Paul's Hall.

St Matthews: Every 2nd Sunday of each month will be an all-age service where children and young people will help lead the service. The 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday of each month at both the 9am and 10.30am services there will be a space to explore the readings with activity sheets and toys at the back of church. We are looking at what provision we can offer on Sundays in the coming year.

St James: The 2nd Sunday of each month will be a all-age baptism service. We shall have Junior Church held in the glass room at church every 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday of each month.

Young People: We have a number of different ways for our young people meet each week for 11-18 year-olds. For more information please contact Christine Cook on 07766 711099.

We are looking forward to meeting again and growing this ministry, if you might be interested in serving in this ministry please let Mark Wade know and he will put you in contact with the group leaders.

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



WiganWestHub

Small Groups

We have started to see several small groups start across the Parish which is great news both daytime and evening, below are when they meeting and where if you might be interested do let Mark or Fran know and we shall connect you into one.

Daytime (Day and time TBC) Goose Green
Daytime (Thursday, Goose Green
Evening: Wednesday 7.30pm, Goose Green
Evening: Wednesday 8PM, Poolstock
Evening: Wednesday 8pm: Winstanley
Evening: Wednesday 7.30pm Zoom

As we have been looking in this month of vision, each one of us is called to go out and proclaim the good news and what better place to be encouraged and equipped to do this is a small group.

The Friendship Club

I arranged a trip for sixteen of our members to visit The East Lancashire Railway at Bury on the 15th of September and prior to our visit we were first able to have a wander around the famous Bury Market and sample the iconic black puddings. Sadly as there was a degree of walking involved, three of our members who were a degree frailer than most, felt unable to come with us on the day, but we certainly plan to include them on future trips.

Our trip included lunch in the famous Pullman carriages whilst on the move around East Lancashire. Once again we were blessed with a sunny day as we left Wigan at 10.00am. Arriving shortly after 10.30am we split up into smaller groups and headed into the market. It was my first visit and I was surprised how large an area it covered. My first task was to fulfil the orders for black puddings I had been given. This was easy enough as most stalls sold them, what I hadn't realised was how heavy they were and having bought them early I was stuck with carrying them around with me. I had ended up with the only other two males and quite naturally we moved seamlessly from three coffees to three pints. We had already experienced as much as we wanted of the market and waited for the coach to pick us up again to go to the station for the 1.00pm start of our rail journey.

It was quite exciting to experience riding on a steam train again for the first time in many years and we were thoroughly enjoying the trip. Our lunch of Aberdeen Angus sausages with garlic mash was served very efficiently along with a welcome glass of wine. We finished with Lancashire tart and cream having very much enjoyed the meal. All too soon two and a half hours had passed and we arrived back at our departure point. The coach trip home was uneventful and we arrived back at approximately 5.30pm, feeling refreshed and wondering where our next trip will take us. Why not join us on Wednesday afternoons in St. Matthew's Parish Hall. You too could be with us on future trips.

Dave Whitter

Where your treasure is ...

This is the eleventh article in the series that I have been writing for this magazine. In the first ten, I have explored some of the basics of the Christian faith. You might think that this piece is different, because I am going to talk about money, and you might think that this topic is just about practicalities, not about the central issues of the faith. I don't think that is true. Read the gospels, and you will find that Jesus has a lot to say about money.

The last part of a man to be converted is his wallet. *Attributed to John Wesley*

In the Acts of the Apostles we read that the early church in Jerusalem shared all their worldly goods: "All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need." (Acts 2, 44-45.) It has to be admitted that, a few years later, the Apostle Paul was busy collecting money from the gentile churches, who hadn't adopted such a radical policy, to give to the impoverished Jerusalem church.



Yet Paul didn't consider his efforts to collect money as something separate from his ministry as an Apostle – indeed, he was willing to risk upsetting the churches he wrote to, in order to press the case for aiding poor fellow believers.

In the Old Testament, the priests were supported by a tithe – a tenth of all wealth and produce was reserved for the Temple, and paying that tenth was an essential part of being a devout Jew. Some churches still teach tithing as a fixed duty, with each member expected to give a tenth of their income to the church, and those churches never need to have jumble sales or fix huge cardboard thermometers outside their buildings. But, although the example of tithing is a wholesome one, no such rule, as a fixed rule, can be found in the New Testament. So what does the New Testament say?

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. *Matthew 6:21*

Jesus warned very clearly about the dangers of being ruled by money. Indeed, he said that it was impossible to serve God and wealth. Giving to the church is only one aspect of our stewardship of all that we have. The institution of the church is not identical to God's kingdom. But if we believe that the church is, however imperfectly, cooperating with God in his mission in our world, then surely we must wish to see it prosper. We don't want it to be running on petrol fumes all the time, having to worry about the accounts when we should be sharing the good news of Jesus.

There is no point in playing at being poor for an hour each Sunday morning. If many of us live in comfort the rest of the week, then should we really run our common life on a shoestring? This parish is doing amazing work amongst those in need, and connecting with people, even during lockdown, who have never encountered the gospel before.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold. *Frances Ridley Havergal*

All this marvellous work, all these God-given opportunities will wither on the vine if we are held back by lack of income.

Perhaps you have already thought and prayed about the financial contribution you can make to this parish. In that case, thank you. But the days when churches could live off the gifts given by the Christians in the churchyard have gone. The breathing Christians are going to have to pay their own way now.

God has given us his greatest gift in sending his Son to be our Saviour. We respond with the joyful gift of ourselves, and that includes thinking about our financial priorities. Please pray about this.

When people talk about "sacrificial giving" it makes it all sound very grim and sombre. But remember what the book of Psalms says about the sacrifices in the Temple. The people were not reluctant to make sacrifices – the festivals were the occasion of joy and celebration. To contribute to God's mission is a joy and a privilege.

Gordon James

Praying for a new term in our Schools

We are delighted to welcome Guy Lövgreen as the new headteacher of St James' Primary School! We know Guy very well from working with him at St Matthew's. Guy joins Alison Jackson at St Paul's and Alison Barron at St Matthew's as our headteachers. We are looking forward to serving in these schools in the coming weeks and months. Please do pray as they begin this new term. In each magazine we shall hear a little about all that is happening and how we can support our local schools.

We are delighted each month to hear about all that is happening at Deanery High thanks to Martin Wood who is the Headteacher, and also Colin Hesketh (St Matthew's lay reader) has joined the Deanery as head of maths, please be praying for them and all their team.

We are also excited to be going back to Marus Bridge and Winstanley Community School from October. Also, we have our fantastic *Open the Book* team and look at growing the team and hopefully being able to go into our community schools.

As we begin this new term, here is some news from our Headteachers.



On 6 September school returned, and for the first time in a very long time we could welcome back all the children into our school family. It was wonderful to greet the new Reception Class children who arrived happy and eager and following some initial first day nerves they are bonding as a class and enjoying the start of their learning journey with us. For the other year bands, they are happy to be back with their friends and to be able to share some of the school areas with other children. Eating lunch in the dining room is no longer taken for granted and the joy of sharing a meal together is

palpable to see.

We have been asked if there are any prayers you can offer for us. I would like to ask for prayer for children who have struggled with lockdown and the return to routine. Anyone who has suffered bereavement during lockdown and the continued safety and good health of everyone in our school community. This term we are focusing closely on prayer in general promoting prayerful moments, encouraging regular prayer, and listening to God.

Alison Jackson

St. Paul's C.E. Primary School

Dear All,

It gives me great pride and to introduce myself as the new Headteacher at St James' CE and thank you for so many warm welcomes and kind words in these first few days.

Being part of a 'community' has never been more important in living memory. Not only does it give us support and help when it is needed, but it offers us that deeper level of security and emotional comfort that help us to navigate tough times. And whilst the vaccination roll-out has offered much promise in these last few months, the true impact of the pandemic will surely be measured against economic uncertainties that lie ahead. It is now more than ever that we need to be actively doing what we can for each and everyone within our lives and locality.

John 13:34 "A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another... So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other."

Jesus taught us to love one another. I am asking the school and its community to show the breadth and depth of 'love' in what we do this term. In particular we will look at 'acts of kindness' to try and make a positive impact upon those most in need.

I want to leave you with our new school prayer, which brings us together each day and hopefully in joining with us, with this—you will feel closer to us too:

*O Lord
Bless our school,
That in working together
And praying together
We may learn from you
And serve one another
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.*



Guy Lövgreen



At Highfield St Matthew's pupils and staff alike are delighted to back in school, and it is so exciting as we try to get back to 'normal'. We have been meeting together for Worship daily, and Rev'd Mark is once again in school leading a weekly Worship with children. We might not be able to sing together yet, but we have great fun joining in with the actions!

We are determined to make sure no learning time is lost this year, and every minute counts towards this goal! Our children love coming to school and are eager to learn.

We are looking forward to working even more closely with the church community this year.

Mrs Barron

St Matthew's C.E. Primary School

Vision Day and Harvest Gift Sunday

Saturday 16th Oct 10am—3pm St James Centre, Poolstock

We are going to gather to pray together, worship together, and share in fellowship together. Both in-person and also streamed live via Zoom.

We shall be joined by Team Rector Revd Neil Cook. This is going to be our opportunity to pray together, discuss what we are thinking and seeing, through the month of vision teaching in September and October and see what and how that looks in Wigan West.

We shall also share lunch which will be provided by our brand new *real junk food* pay-as-you-feel Faith Café which now meets each Saturday.

We shall also have activities for children and young people.

We shall also be sharing about how we see financially we are going as a parish and what we believe we should be investing and blessing others with the money we give. Later this year and next year we shall be having a longer series looking at giving and offering a gift day in each worshipping community. This is something that we shall do yearly.

Then Sunday 17th October will be Harvest for the Parish. Our Harvest offering will be a gift to the work of the Parish and also food donations for our Food outlets all across Wigan. We shall also be giving to support the work of welcoming our Afghanistan refugees here in Wigan.



PARAPROSDOKIANS...

(Winston Churchill loved them) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous. Could you invent one? Please send your entry to the magazine editor and we will give a prize for the best!

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station.
10. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted the pay cheques.

Like a pumpkin

A lady had recently become a Christian and been baptised. Curious, one of her colleagues at work asked her what it was like to be a Christian.

The lady was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer. Then she saw the office 'jack-o'-lantern' on a nearby desk and blurted: "Well, it's like being a pumpkin."

Her colleague asked her to explain that one. So she said: "Well, God picks you up out of the patch and



brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins.

"Then He cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside you. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all to see.

"It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine, or come inside and be something new and bright."

Are you something new and bright? Will you be smiling today, and shining with His light?

Faith at Home youth pages!

Mark 10 v 46 - 52

They spent some time in Jericho. As Jesus was leaving town, trailed by his disciples and a parade of people, a blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, was sitting alongside the road.

When he heard that Jesus of Nazarene was passing by, he began to cry out, "son of David, Jesus! Mercy, have mercy on me!" Many tried to hush him up, but he yelled all the louder, "Son of David! Mercy, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped in his tracks. "Call him over." They called him. "It's your lucky day! Get up! He's calling you to come!" Throwing off his coat, he was on his feet at once and came to Jesus.

Jesus said, "What can I do for you?" The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

"On your way." Said Jesus. "Your faith has saved and healed you."

In that very instant he recovered his sight and followed Jesus down the road.

Hello!

Read along with the Bible passage, chat with your family about some of the questions and have a go at the challenge!



challenge

Cover your eyes with a scarf and try to imagine what it might be like to be unable to see. If you sit still, are you more aware of sounds and smells around you when you cannot see where they are coming from?

Try to do a simple task like putting on your shoes and tying your laces when you cannot see what you are doing.

Think of all the things you enjoy doing which you'd be unable to do in the same way if you could not see.

Bartimaeus had so much faith that Jesus could help him that he shouted as loud as he could to get his attention in the crowds. Jesus heard Bartimaeus and asked him how he could help.



Reflection

Imagine knowing that if you had a problem all you had to do was to ask Jesus and he would help you to get through it.

Dear Father in heaven,

Thank you that you sent your Son Jesus to be our friend and who we can always ask for help. Thank you that all we have to do is to have faith and trust that he is always there for us whenever we need him, all we have to do is call out to him.

Amen

Notices

Vision Day and Gift Sunday

Saturday 16th Oct 10am—4pm at St James Centre.

We are going to gather to pray together, worship together, share in fellowship together. Both in-person but we will stream the talks via Zoom.

The point of the day will be for us to share together and look ahead together what is needed for us to flourish together. We shall have provision for children and young people.

Then on Sunday 17th October will be Harvest for the Parish and this will bring together teaching on giving as we respond to the prophetic word given to us that we should ask and pray for £300,000 for 2021. Our Harvest offering will be a gift to the work of the Parish and also food donations for our food outlets all across Wigan. Get these dates in your diary! Begin praying about how you may respond to these important days in the history of our Parish.

Bereavement Support

Bereavement Support Group will meet on Thursday 14th and Monday 25th October at 1pm at the St James Centre. If you are bereaved, lonely or in need of company do come along you will be made most welcome by Mr David Berry and his team. We understand that the last 18 months have been very difficult so don't be afraid to reach out, we are here to help. For more information, contact David on 07404 605015.

Alpha



This September we shall be running *Alpha* on Mondays:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN!

1. 12-2pm St Pauls Hall, Clapgate lane with lunch.
2. 7.30-9.30pm St James Centre, Poolstock, with coffee and cake.

Alpha is a great opportunity to come and explore and ask *Who is Jesus?* We shall eat together, the talks this year will be a mixture of live talks and *Alpha* videos.

alpha.org.uk

This is a great course to come with that friend? Who might you invite?

If you would like to join please email Mark or Fran at:

curate.west@churchwigan.org
hubleader.west@churchwigan.org

Let this be a season of invitation!

Lifelines

Lifelines dementia-friendly café meets on 1st October, 1.30 pm at the St James Centre for a Harvest Hotpot Lunch. Lifelines is open to everybody, but especially to those who are affected by dementia, including carers and family.

Faith Café

Faith Café is open at the St James Centre on Saturdays, 11-2pm on a pay as you feel basis and Tom' Pantry will be open at the same time. Come along and enjoy The Real Junk Food Project experience in a lovely friendly atmosphere.



Thank you for everyone's input! Large print copies of the magazine are available

Thank you to everyone for your feedback on the magazine. We have set a minimum font size and darkened the print following your feedback, and there is an option to have a magazine printed A3 size. If you have any further feedback or if you would like a large print edition please let Barbara know at hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org

We thank you for all your feedback as we continue to develop and grow the magazine as a resource of mission and drawing people closer to Jesus in all that is happening across the parish. The vision of the magazine is that it is a resource of knowing Jesus more and celebrating all that is happening in the parish.

A big thank you to our fantastic editorial team of Gordon, June, Paul and Sam. Also to all who contributed.

God Bless *Mark and Fran*

St Matthews Guides

By the time this magazine has been printed we hope to have returned to our Guide meetings which will take place in the Parish Hall and not the Parish Rooms. We will continue to meet from 7.15 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. on Monday evenings.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like any further information.

Thank you

The Guiders

Women's Fellowship St Matthew's

How quickly the summer break has passed! Some of us took the opportunity to meet up on a Thursday evening in the Lounge for a drink and a chat (more of the latter than the former!) As I write this at the beginning of September we are meeting once again in the Hall, and the committee has planned the programme for the next few months. If any members has suggestions please let us know.

Calendar for October

7th October – Harvest Supper

14th October – Evening Hour (Harvest Thanksgiving)

21st October – Speaker Brian Cresswell from Home Instead

28th October – Holy Communion

Sheila Highton

Book Writing Club

Tuesday
12th October, 2 pm
to 4 pm at St
James Centre.



Experience the world of books through writing in a friendly group setting.

Refreshments half way through the session.

Contact Paul Naylor, 01942 513699, between 5 and 6pm.

Word Search

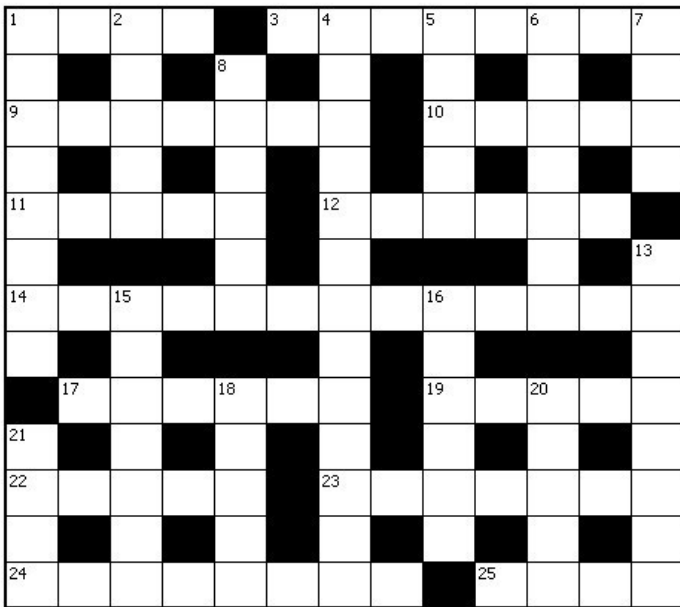
HARVEST

October brings us Harvest Thanksgiving, when we thank God for all the bounty of Creation. If you ever doubt God's generosity towards us, just stroll down the aisles of your local supermarket: they are groaning with food of a vast variety, of every colour, texture and taste that you can imagine. Our God is a extravagant when it comes to food - He could have provided just a few basic edible things for us to eat; instead, the choice seems endless. But in the midst of all this bounty, take time to remember all the millions of people worldwide who are starving this month, desperate for any kind of food. Before God in prayer, decide how much you can give this month to one of the many charities who are trying to help people in need, and be generous.



October	creation	variety	starving	help
Harvest	generosity	edible	pray	desperate
Thanksgiving	supermarket	choice	give	
bounty	food	endless	charities	
God	vast	millions	eat	

C R O S S



W O R D

Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association

St. Matthew's Cricket Corner

As the season draws to a close we are beginning to reflect on the inevitable highs and lows of the clubs many activities in 2021 to date.

We have already held our end of season awards event and what a great night it was with guest of honour ex Lancashire and England all-rounder Ian Austin. With three of our junior teams reaching their respective finals, of which the under 15s won theirs, there was plenty to celebrate at each age group and a packed Community Hall did just that!! Congratulations to overall Junior Player of the Season, Jamie Darbyshire.

The Saturday senior teams have had a disappointing second half to the season, partly due to injuries and player unavailability, and indeed the second team face a massive last game where their current league status is out of their hands. We are hoping for a win at Wavertree and helpful results elsewhere. Our Sunday team has continued to offer players development opportunities with many youngsters and older players doing just that.

Off the field, the investment in the new drainage, only made possible by the unbelievably successful crowd funder supported by our wonderful community and sponsors, has worked really well and ensured even more use of our brilliant outdoor facilities. But further investment is required elsewhere; in particular we need a new more modern scoreboard, so the fundraising activities will be cranked up once again.

Our sponsors have again been brilliant and we would like to thank them all so much. They include Wigan

Warriors (Community partner and senior teams), R Banks & Son Funerals Ltd (Ground Sponsor), Nicepak (Junior Teams), QED Scaffolding (Training Kit), The Hot Tub Outlet, Fairhurst Accountants, Axon Moore, RKF Property Services, HR Department, Recruitmate, Openwork, Jake Hughes Mortgage & Protection Advisor, Protec Roofing North West Ltd, BH Mox Ltd.

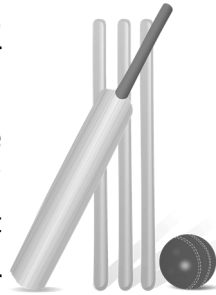
Our club does so much good work for our community providing sporting and social opportunities, so please do consider supporting us.

We have now established a well supported 100 Club Draw, with monthly winners enjoying a £150 top prize. We would love to increase that prize fund even more, but need more participants to do so. Its £5 a month per entry, ideally through a direct debit. Or you could become a member of Highfield Cricket Club for just £25 a year. You

become a full non playing member of the club and secure discounted prices at the Community Hall bars. Plus we enter you into a separate member's only monthly draw with bar credits for the winners.

If you would like to support the club with one or both of these initiatives, or would like to sponsor the club, please contact Gary on 07721 639970.

With hopefully less restrictions, we are also looking to re-establish our events programme during the winter close season, which is also a source of crucial funds for a club like ours.



So we have a number of dates for your diaries, with our Christmas and New Year events still being finalised:

Friday 5th November 2021; Bonfire and Fireworks Display
Saturday 12th February 2022; Valentines with band Neon Kandi
Friday 1st April 2022; Sports Dinner with Ben Westwood ex Warrington and England RL

Finally, thank you to everyone who has attended junior or senior matches this season, offering their support to the teams, or attended one of our events. We look forward to doing more of the same over the next 12 months as we move even closer to our centenary in 2024.

Gary Speakman

Churchyard Maintenance

Thank you to all those who help with the never ending task of keeping our graveyards looking clean and tidy. Particularly at St. Matthew's where we



thank Martin and the Cricket Club for their continuing commitment to mowing and strimming for us. Apart from anything else this has saved Church from the £3000+ annual cost of using a contractor to do the job. In particular Martin spends hours doing this work, riding his little tractor up and down and up and down and then strimming, which takes considerably longer.

I would also like to thank Pauline who grows vast quantities of particularly sweet tomatoes in her greenhouse and for weeks now has been coming to the Friendship Club with bags and bags of tomatoes which she sells to members for a donation to church and, in particular, to the funds I keep to pay for weed killer, fuel for the strimmer etc. etc. She has given me £70 up to date. She also does a similar thing at Women's Fellowship who donates towards the upkeep of a child in a developing country. Not to forget of course, the volunteers who turn up regularly at all three churches to carry out maintenance work. Without these lovely people our buildings and their surrounds would soon revert to a jungle. Those who doubt that are welcome to look at photographs of St. Matthew's Graveyard in the '70s before it was made into a 'lawned cemetery'. The Amazon springs immediately to mind.

Dave Whitter



Church Wigan Worship
by telephone

Please dial telephone number: - 0330 606 0411
Calls charged at standard rate, free on mobile with unlimited calls or within minute allowance, landline free with certain tariffs. You will hear an automated answer requesting access code.
Access code: 1551140 followed by#

Burials and Funerals

St Paul's

None

St James with St Thomas

None

St Matthew

01/09/21 Elsie Stockley
aged 90

03/09/21 Suzanne Higham
aged 44

Baptisms

August

Joey David McNicholas *St Matthew's*
Harry David Singleton *St Matthew's*
Amelie Charlotte Hornby *St Matt. 's*

September

John Henry Heaton *St Paul's*
Nate Edwards *St Paul's*
Kobe Collier *St Paul's*



Donations

In memory of mum, Vera
Cowan (died 1990)
From Iris & George

Birthday remembrance of
Florence Baron 17th October 1893
From Gillian Clough

Treasured birthday memories of our
dear son Neil Alexander Wright
(1963-1982)
From Dad, Mum & Barry

In loving memory of Elsie Stockley
From Mildred Garner

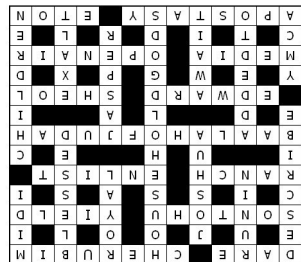
If you would like a copy of the
magazine in **LARGE PRINT**

please email Barbara at

hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org

If you wish for your donation to appear in the Church Magazine could you please **PRINT** the information to be enclosed clearly on the front of your envelope and hand it into **CHURCH**, so as to avoid any unnecessary upset, or email it to one of the magazine team,

Thank you for your co-operation in the matter. *Ed*



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.

St Matthews

Assistant Warden

John Dawson 01942 732526

Assistant Warden

Andrea Wood 07734 447699

Reader *Colin Hesketh* 07712 431105

Organist *Sue Gordon* 01942 214955

Deputy Organist

Colin Hesketh 07712 431105

Bereavement Support

John Dawson 01942732526

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 01942 218334

Gill Marsh 01942 207723

Brownies

Joanne Tabener/Elizabeth Gaskell

14thwiganbrownies@gmail.com

Guides

Helen Albers 07960 920587

Sunday Fun Club

Kathryn Louis 07557 106206

Sunday School *Marian Brown*

Women's Fellowship

Sheila Highton 01942 217754

Primary School Headteacher

Mrs A Barron 01942 747818

St Pauls

Assistant Warden

Cliff Unsworth 01942 200229

Assistant Warden

Maureen Gower 01942 234410

Assistant Warden

Miriam Unsworth 01942 200229

Reader *Arthur Hubbard* 01942 321977

Reader *Gordon Fath* 01942 621173

Organist

Kathleen Shepherd 01942 248683

Flowers *Pam Wilkinson* 01942 716668

Mother's Union

Anne Hubbard 01942 321977

Sunday School

Jacqui Collier 07912664754

Craft Workshop

Gillian Greenwood 01942 825670

Friends Together

Lynn Conroy 01942202249

Linda Berry 01942 492521

House Groups

Linda Catterall 01942 237333

Anne & Arthur Hubbard 01942 321977

Brian & Irene Marsh 01942 243265

Mike & Gill Greenwood 01942 825670

Primary School Headteacher

Mrs A Jackson 01942 243068

Need to book a hall?

St Matthews Church Hall:

Mr Jones 07930 867209

St James with St Thomas:

Alison Brown 01942 740777

St Pauls Church Hall:

Darren Speakman 07456 840803

BAPTISMS *If you wish to enquire about Baptism please come to St Matthews on 1st, 2nd or 4th Sunday of the month to book. Please note it may not be possible to book them on the 3rd Sunday as we will be getting ready for our Baptism Service at 12.30pm. Please Note we are now booked up until March 2022 in most places.*

WEDDINGS *Gordon Fath: treasurer.benefice@churchwigan.org*

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

Wardens Corner

During the hub service, at St Matthews cricket ground on Sunday 29th August, I had a strong feeling of a new beginning in the life of our parish. When you read this we will have spent 4 weeks listening, praying and discussing our vision for this new phase in all our lives. There are huge challenges ahead as we try to discern how we should move forward. We need to face these together, confront the hard issues of change, being prepared to let some things go and be open to new ones. It's exciting, and scary. The main thing is that we all get involved by praying, talking and listening to God and to one another.



While planning for the future we need to continue what we're already doing. It would be great to increase the number of people involved in running all the various activities. Please think about whether you could volunteer in any capacity.

As always many thanks to all who are already working so hard to keep the wheels turning.

Best wishes

Ann

Join the adventure

Monday 27th September



Join us as we have a mixture of live and video talks as we explore the Christian Faith and the big questions, over 10 weeks.



Alpha.org
#TryAlpha

Join us either Monday 12 pm-2 pm at St Paul's Hall, Clapgate Lane, with lunch
Monday 7.30 pm-9.30 (St James centre, Poolstock) Coffee and Cake
To book please email Mark at: hubleader.west@churchwigan.org



West Hub