

Wigan West



PARISH MAGAZINE

*Now then, stand still
and see this great
thing the Lord is
about to do before
your eyes!*

1 Samuel 12:16

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.

Church Wigan Team Rector *Revd Neil Cook* 01942 242984

The Parish of Wigan West

Hub Leader

Revd Mark Wade 01942 494906

Curate *Fran Humphry* 07592024058

Warden *Ann Birch* 01942 227036

Warden *Martin Gaskell* 01942 741340

Treasurer *Jeff McCann* 07595 882 321

Minute Secretary

Kathleen Moran 01942 255741

Magazine Editors

Gordon James 01942 238251

1123904@chester.ac.uk

June Gibson 01942 703096

jngibson@hotmail.co.uk

Paul Nolan 01942 804810

pnolan1972@yahoo.co.uk

Printing:

Sam Rusling sam@jesandsam.com

Distribution:

Gordon James, John Dawson &

Lyn Starkie 01942 494715

St James with St Thomas

Local Missional Leader

Gordon James 01942 238251

Assistant Wardens

Alison Brown 01942 740777

Carol & Chris Simm

Reader *Pam Bancroft* 01942 713198

Reader *Gordon James* 01942 238251

Organist *David Goulden* 01942 245710

Flowers *Iris Wright* 01942 493850

Flowers *Jean Hogan* 01942 492888

Bereavement Support

David Berry 01942 386987

Sunday School

Louise Ashcroft 07513 719278

Primary School Headteacher

Mr G Lövegren 01942 703952

Lifelines *St James Centre & Eliot Gardens*

Local Missional Leader

Alison Brown 01942 740777

Little Stars *St Pauls Hall*

Bec Jones 07595182683

Wellspring *St Pauls Hall*

Local Missional Leader

Lucy Haigh 07900 252 361

Lighthouse *St James School*

Local Missional Leaders:

Jes Rusling 07827 326 290

jes@jesandsam.com

Sam Rusling 077 22 99 4923

sam@jesandsam.com

St Matthews

May

- 1 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 5 Thursday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 8 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 All Age Parade Service
- 15 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Holy Communion
12.30 Baptism Service
- 22 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Service of the Word
- 29 Sunday St Matthews**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Hub service

Services

St James with St Thomas

May

- 1 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion with
Sunday School
- 8 Sunday**
10.30 All age Baptism service
- 15 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word with
- 22 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 29 Sunday St Matthews**
10.30 Hub Service

St Pauls

May

- 1 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Service of the Word
- 8 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion with
Sunday School
- 11 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion
Refreshments from
10.00
- 15 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word with
Sunday School
- 18 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion
Refreshments from
10.00
- 22 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
- 25 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion
Refreshments from
10.00
- 29 Sunday St Matthews**
10.30 Hub Service



Wellspring: Every Wednesday:
3.30-5pm St Pauls Hall and School



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,

I write this in Holy week (the strangeness of deadline dates is always the 15th). This afternoon I joined with the St James home Communion team to share communion with three members of our community. This was a real Holy moment as one member who had not received communion for over two years said these words: "I feel so much better now, just meeting God through this."

Holy week is Holy but sometimes Holy week can be a busy week.

The next day I did something different, I played 5-a-side against a team from the hotel in Wigan who have arrived from Afghanistan. I play 5-a-side each Wednesday with some clergy and staff from St Paul's School and a few others, this is great for my wellbeing and great to be outside. This 5-a-side match is a weekly outing for those from the hotel as they are unable to work and can't do much, this has been a great joy for them as they wait to be rehoused. They have even had some training from Wigan Athletic. So when we were invited to play them we jumped at the chance. Seeing two communities of football joining as one, I call this a Holy moment.

At the start of June and throughout this year there are celebrations to celebrate the Queen, the Queen has been a Holy leader. Each year at the Queen's speech I say to Toni that she becomes more of a preacher and evangelist each year. Sometimes we forget how passionate about Jesus Queen Elizabeth is. She continually creates holy moments for us as she leads us.

By the time you have read this I should have been on retreat, I am so excited! It's not the thought of having 12 hours of sleep and eating a meal in silence, I am excited to read, walk, and listen to God. It's one of the things I have missed, as I have not been on retreat since 2019. Why are retreats so important? Because this gives space to listen, wait, and come to the holy moments with God. Retreats should not just be for those who minister, Toni went on retreat in 2019 after me and we both said this needs to be a tradition we start. Covid then started, so 2022 is the year to start this again. The reason is to stop, listen, and wait and come to those holy moments with God.

The things Jesus did the most in his ministry were not speaking, healing, or teaching, He went off on his own to listen and find a holy moment with God.

The last thing Jesus did with his disciples was to pray and wait and listen. As we come towards the summer months and a spring and summer with hopes of less Covid restrictions I invite each one of you to think about what that lady we visited with home communion said. "I needed that."

What do you need in your life to have that holy moment? Maybe it's to retreat? Maybe it is to be part of that small group, maybe it's to serve in that worshipping community. Maybe it's to play in that five-a-side team. What is clear in the Bible is that we need to create space in our busy lives to stop and be with God.

How and what does that look like for you?

In 1 Samuel in Samuel's farewell speech, he said this: 1 Samuel 12: 16

Now then, stand still and see this great thing the Lord is about to do before your eyes!



As we move forward in the coming months, and do more as a Parish, I invite each one of us to take time to be still and find that holy moment as we seek God together.

God Bless,
Mark

Sunday 28 August and Sunday 31 July

On 31 July we won't have a hub service however that Sunday we shall offer:

- 9 am BCP at St Pauls
- 10.30 St Pauls, Service of the Word
- 10.30 St Matthews, Holy Communion
- 10.30 St James, Holy Communion

Then on the 4th Sunday on 28 August we won't have any services in our buildings but at 10.30 am we shall be inviting everyone one to Bispham Hall, Billinge for a special hub service as some of our worship communities of *Wellspring* and *Lighthouse* and others will be camping that weekend and we are going to end the time together with a communion service at Bispham so we will use this as our summer hub service. We shall be offering lifts to anyone who would like to come. For those who don't want to travel that far, there will be also services in Northwest and Town Centre Parishes that day.

This is a great opportunity to come and worship together and join all our worship communities together.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

As a Parish, there are a number of ways to celebrate the Jubilee.
As you can see there is the Parbold festival and you can go for the day or camp there, it's a great opportunity to join together (see page 20).

Then there is:

Family fun day Thursday 2 June 11am-9pm St Matthews Cricket ground.

Lifelines café are having Afternoon tea on Thursday 2 June at 1.30pm in St James Centre.

Faith Café will be doing something similar on Saturday 4th June 11-2pm in St James Centre.

To finish our celebrations all our Church Choirs are going to be joining together to lead our first **Parish Evensong** celebration, where we shall celebrate the Queen. This will be Sunday 5 June at St Matthews Church at 4pm followed by refreshments in the St Matthews Parish Hall. A great opportunity to invite a friend!



St Pauls Church Building

In our warden's letter last month we shared that we are starting to work with an architect to reorder St Pauls Church building. In 2019 we had plans rejected for reordering St Pauls and this was a real disappointment. However, we then moved into a two-year lockdown so maybe God was preparing us for this season.

As we have prayed about starting this process again a number of opportunities have arisen. Us being a bigger Parish has helped us think about the needs of our community, for example, St Matthews Hall and St Pauls Hall are generally booked up most evenings of the week and there are fewer community spaces to use in the area so there is a real need for community spaces.

The vision has always been to take the pews out of the Church to enable us to have a very different worship space and this would give us three very different worship spaces across the Parish and also a building that could be used by the wider community seven days a week. Also, the Faith Cafe team are excited to plant a cafe in a reordered St Pauls and there are other opportunities like this.

We do not know the time scale but we have just started working with our architect Maggie Mullen and can use some of the background work that went on in 2019. We have a building team: Mark Wade and Cliff Unsworth are project leads and are joined by Ann Birch and Martin Gaskell our Church Wardens, Emma Farley and Pam Wilkinson who represent our PCC and Fran Humphry as Curate. Please do pray as we begin to plan, design and get permission and create a space that enables us to grow disciples and bless our local community. Please do speak to any of the team if you have questions.

Home Communions

Over Holy week we were delighted to begin home communion once again across the Parish.

If you would like to receive Home Communion, please let Barbara know our administrator and we will get you added to the list for May / June. We hope to visit once a month.

Barbara: barbara.poyntz@churchwigan.org or 07881792451

With this in mind we are creating a Parish Home Communion team, where you will visit people locally to you but like many things working as a bigger parish enables us to more and support each other.

So three things are happening.

Would you like to be part of this team, please speak to Mark or Fran.

We will run some training and everyone will need to do safeguarding training and get a DBS from the parish

We are looking for someone to oversee the whole team and also an admin lead at St James and St Pauls, this role means you will ring all those who will receive communion about time and day and let those know who are going out on the visit, could you do this?

Please do let us know if you would like to receive Communion or join the team. Later in the year, we hope to start going into our care homes and sheltered accommodation again.

St Pauls Mother's Union met on Tuesday 12 April, usually we gather together in the Parish Hall, but this month Kathleen Shepherd was giving us a bit of history about our church. So we thought it appropriate to meet in the church. We had a lovely afternoon and were told some very interesting facts about it. How the monies were raised to build it and how much people wanted a church here at St Pauls. Kathleen is very passionate about it and proved an excellent speaker, it was very much enjoyed by all.

Next month on 10 May at 7.30pm we of the Ladies Coffee Morning will be holding 'Saints Alive' sung by Hindley Churches Together Choir. It is free entry to St Paul's church, but if you enjoy it there will be a retiring offering for charity. Refreshments will be available and everyone is invited. Please come along and join us.

Anne

St Matthews Guides On our first meeting back after the half term break, we celebrated Thinking Day, this is the day when Guides from around the world remember girls in other countries and we light a candle in remembrance of all the Guides around the world. This year we especially remembered the Guides in Ukraine and we were grateful to Fran who came and said some special prayers for us as we lit a special candle for them. Before we finished for half term each girl had been given a country to find some interesting facts about to share with everyone and at the end of the meeting candles were lit for all these countries.

This evening was also the day before Shrove Tuesday, so the girls also made and enjoyed pancakes some even tried to toss them but without huge success!!

We have had a games night with puzzles and board games to play, an evening learning about basic 1st Aid with the girls learning about CPR and putting someone in the recovery position.

We have also been able to welcome Mrs Johnston back to our meeting to help make Mother's Day cards the results were very good.

Our last meeting before Easter was an energetic trip to Ninja Warriors which was enjoyed by all.

We will be having a long break over Easter this time and we recommence our meetings on 25 April.

The Guiders



The Lord's Prayer

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Where the King James Bible has Jesus telling Pontius Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36), modern translations usually have, "My kingdom is not from this world." The newer translations give a better idea of the original meaning for today's English speakers. Jesus is not telling Pontius Pilate that his kingdom has nothing to do with this world. If that were the case, why would he have instructed us to pray for God's kingdom to come on earth? Jesus is saying that his authority does not originate in this world – it comes from his Father.

God's kingdom, and therefore Jesus's kingdom, is not a place, but his rule: it is his kingship. God's kingdom exists where Jesus's commands are obeyed. The battle against evil was won decisively by Jesus on the cross but his kingship, his rule, is yet to come in its fullness. If you want to know what God's kingdom is like, then there are many, many pictures in the gospels. If you want a manifesto for God's kingdom, you can't do better than to look up Luke, Chapter 1, verses 46-55, the passage we know as the Magnificat. The values of this world are turned on their head: the mighty are brought low and the humble and meek raised up, the hungry fed and the rich sent away empty.

If the Church is to be true to its vocation, then it must be a foretaste of God's kingdom, a community where God's values rather than the world's are lived out. It has to be admitted that in some matters, the world has been ahead of the Church in its acceptance of difference, but our society has some big blind spots when it comes to inclusion. The biggest one of all is wealth. The Savoy Hotel in London would rightly be in trouble if it discriminated against potential guests on grounds of their ethnicity, or gender, or sexuality, or disability. But it has no trouble at all discriminating against those who can't afford £4000 a night for one of their best rooms.

People who approach the Church to have their child baptized are often surprised at the answer to the question, "How much does a baptism cost?" The answer, of course, is nothing. God's grace is free and without charge. Once we have accepted the free gift of God's grace in Jesus, then we have a responsibility to give of what we have to support the Church's mission. But if we have nothing, or next to nothing, then God through his Church will give us the same Holy Baptism, the same Holy Communion, the same saving message and the same hope of eternal life that would be given to a billionaire who

donates enormous sums to our finances. There may be many dwelling places in God's house, but I'm pretty confident that, unlike at the Savoy, there is no optional extra price tariff for a dwelling place with a river view!

In order to meet people where they are, we sometimes organize special groups and even special worshipping communities for particular groups of people, perhaps those who work in a particular sector, or those with particular cultural traditions. But if these ever become exclusive groups which separate Christians according to the world's categories, in the way that the Dutch Reformed Church did in apartheid South Africa, then they cease to be signs of God's kingdom. When we come forward to receive Holy Communion, we stand or kneel beside those who are very different from ourselves, people who look, sound and perhaps even smell very different from us. That rarely happens outside the Church. The old and the young, the fit and the weary, Black and White, rich and poor, we all come as equals before the might and the mercy of God.

The Christian hope is that, ultimately, God's love and peace will triumph over the sin and hate of this world, and all will be in accordance with his perfect will. In the meantime, in this age of grace, we are called upon to be ambassadors of this now and future kingdom. Jesus was born into a messy, violent world, with competing visions of how society should be ordered, and difficult judgements to be made about allegiance and loyalty. Our faith teaches us that he lived a life, much of it an ordinary life in an ordinary job, in such a context, without sin. We too have to decide on priorities – our duties to ourselves, our families, our church, those in need. Nobody promised us that this would be easy. But we pray for the wisdom of God's Holy Spirit to guide us, and we hold before us the values of God's kingship, of the infinite worth of every human being made in God's image, even those whom the world thinks are worth nothing.

Gordon James





Starting Rite is 5 sessions designed specifically for babies and toddlers and their parents. Each session is laid out in Jenny Paddison's book 'Starting Rite'. When Jenny, an Anglican priest, became a mum she realised there were 1001 different baby groups but nothing for their spiritual nurture. The sessions involve a lot of singing, stories, and a welcoming environment.

For some, is God a difficult subject to talk about, it's also difficult to know how to introduce our invisible God to our babies.

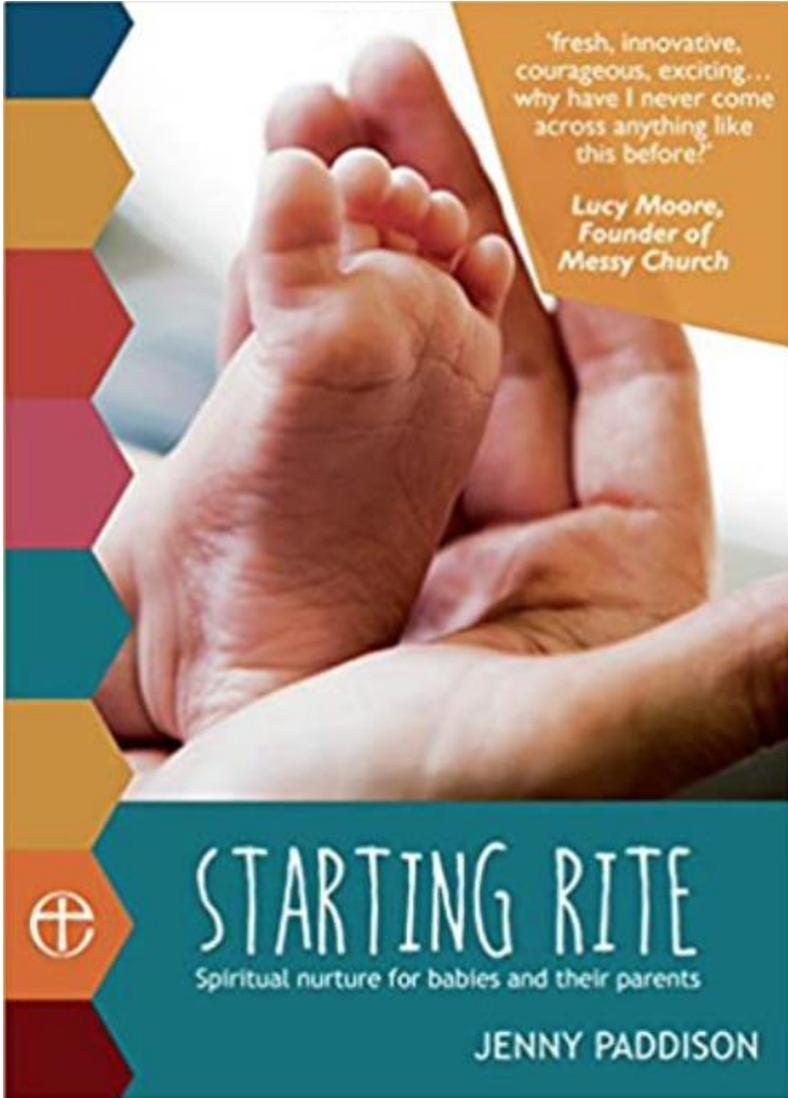
We know our Christening families bring their children to church to bring them close to God, and this is a way we can help them to find songs, games, and terminology to further their whole families intimacy with God. For example, we play peekaboo and talk about how just because we can't see God, he is there, and we can sometime sense his presence. We read a book called 'peekaboo' and lift flaps to see faces behind hair and hats and doors to think about how we too must lift the flaps in life to actively seek Gods face. We read the book 'How much love?' with big hare and baby hare and realise no matter how much we love; God is bigger and will always love us more. We think about the best things about being a parent and how our children feel about us to deepen the father/child relationship of God as *our* father. All the things we love about being a parent is what God loves about being our daddy. We flicker fairy lights and consider the light and dark in the world, free will and choices. We get the bubble machine out and fill the room with bubbles to explain how God wants us to send little prayer bubbles to him all day long and not just one at the end of the day. We learn how easy it is to pray and how God is interested in every tiny prayer bubble. We tell stories of the lost sheep, the wise man and the foolish man, Moses setting Gods people free and God leading Moses through the wilderness to get to the real meanings behind bible stories... Jesus never gives up on us, he is a solid, unmoveable foundation, God guides and makes a way for us.

Feedback from the families has been that they enjoy; 'the welcoming and friendly environment, singing and learning about God in a fun and child friendly way', 'Singing and meeting other parents and babies', 'Learning and watching the children play'.

Some of the parents have done the session multiple times and want to keep meeting in between Starting Rite sessions. So, we have being continuing to meet tp read a story out of the junior bibles they are presented with at their christenings. We chat about any likes, dislikes about the story and what we think its teaching us about God and people.

What has worked well in West Hub is that we have a cross-over of christening families attending Starting Rite on different days and venues. Because we can run it at 9:30am Wednesdays at St Matthews Hall, Thursdays at St Pauls Hall, and Fridays at St James Centre there are more opportunities for West Hub Christening families to find a day that suits them. We would always welcome any help at all to run the sessions or even just a friendly face and I'm extremely grateful to the support of those who do help or have helped in the past.

Thank you!



War in Ukraine: Diocese in Europe and USPG launch Ukraine emergency appeal

The Church of England Diocese in Europe and USPG, the mission agency, have launched an emergency appeal to get aid to people in desperate need because of the invasion of Ukraine.

Funds raised by the appeal will support Christian charities and churches carrying out humanitarian work both in Ukraine and responding to the arrival of refugees in neighbouring countries.

Partners on the ground are providing food, medicine, shelter, care for children and people internally displaced in Ukraine. With refugees they are supplying care at the border and beyond, including attention to those from Africa and Asia as well as Ukrainians who are fleeing the war.

The appeal is for urgent help NOW, but the work will go on for many months.

The Church of England's Bishop in Europe, the Rt Revd Robert Innes says: "War is horrible. It injures, destroys, and kills in an often indiscriminate and uncontrollable way. And now, we face war in Europe.

"The people of our little church, Christ Church Kyiv, find themselves in the midst of this crisis. They are typical of so many others.

"Some have fled the city whilst others are still there; praying for their safety and for peace as they shelter as best they can. These people are our brothers and sisters. Those still in Ukraine and those who have fled need our help."

USPG's General Secretary, the Revd Duncan Dormor, adds: "Our hearts and prayers go out to the people of Ukraine. We have launched this appeal in partnership with the Diocese in Europe to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and support church responses to the current crisis."

To donate to the Ukraine emergency appeal, visit <https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisesely.com>





PARKSIDE COLLIERY MALE VOICE CHOIR



You are invited to a Concert by Parkside Colliery Male Voice Choir at the St James' Centre, Church Street, Poolstock, Wigan, on Saturday 28th May 2022. The concert will commence at 7.30 pm, with an interval of approximately 15 minutes at around 8.30 pm for refreshments, and the evening will conclude at or about 9.30 pm.

Entrance to the concert is free. Pay as you feel for refreshments. There will be raffle tickets on sale. All proceeds to Wigan West parish funds

Those memorable school reports...

What did your teachers say about your progress at school? The following were sent into the Daily Telegraph some years ago....



~ One of my French reports simply said: 'Sheila attended the lessons'.
– Sheila Blow, Surrey

~ My housemaster wrote: 'He has an overdeveloped unawareness.' – Ian Jones, Wirral

~ A friend's son's report said: 'By the time he has mastered French, he will be too old to cross the Channel.' – M Knaggs, Dorset

~ My teacher observed: 'The improvement in his handwriting has revealed his inability to spell.' – Colin Sutherland, Switzerland

~ My teacher was a realist: 'I am sorry to have to tell you that he is doing his best.'
Stan Proctor, Surrey

St Matthew's (14th Wigan Town) Brownies

It has been a short term, but we've managed to continue getting to know each other and do activities on the Brownie programme. The biggest event was that everyone made their Brownie Promise in front of their families and received their badges and a certificate.

On Palm Sunday at the family service and at very short notice Hannah, Jennifer, Charlotte, and Scarlett helped with the readings and gave very good answers to Colin's questions about the symbols of the Cross.

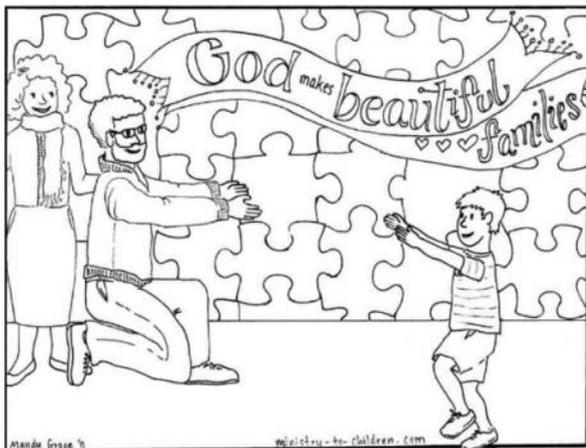
One of the things we have planned for after Easter is a visit from 'Flat Stan' when we will learn first aid and life saving techniques. We secured the funding from our councillor Marie Morgan (soon to be our Mayor) for it and she has accepted our invitation to join us on the night. We are really looking forward to it.

The Brownie Guiders



Hello!

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



Hello, children of God!
I want to talk to you today about families.
Who is in your family?
Who lives at your house or sees you regularly?
What is special about being part of a family?



Reflection

There are a lot of great things about being in a family and having loving relatives around us.

**Dear God, Thank you for your son Jesus.
Thank you for adopting us into your family.
Help us to love one another
and remember we are brothers and sisters in Christ.
We love you, God! Amen!**

Faith at Home youth pages!

Story time! John 1:9-18

9 (Jesus) The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

10 Jesus was in the world! and though the world was made through Jesus , the world did not recognise him.

12 But to all who did recognise him, to those who believed in him, he gave the right to become children of God!

13 Not children born from a human decision, but born from God.

14 Jesus "The Word" became a human and lived among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father God, full of grace and truth.

18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father God, has made him known.

Notices



Our meeting in May will be in the church at 7.30pm Tuesday 10th May. It will be open to the whole parish as we will be hosting the Christian musical, 'Saints Alive.' by Roger Jones. The choir from Hindley, 'Hindley churches Together', will be presenting this. Refreshments will be available and there will be a retiring collection for the Hospice and Christian Music Ministries.

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 and enjoy our pay as you feel experience in a lovely friendly atmosphere.



St. Matthew's Women Fellowship

- 5 May – No meeting due to local elections
- 12 May – Evening Hour (Favourite hymns)
- 19 May – Talk "The life of Josephine Butler"
- 26 May – Holy Communion

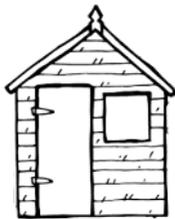
Meetings take place each Thursday evening at 8pm in the Parochial Hall – all ladies welcome.

Sheila Highton



The Shed

Our men's group meet the first Saturday in the month at St Matthew's Hall at 9.30am.



Come and join us for a bacon/sausage barm, cup of tea/coffee, a chat and fellowship. All welcome

Monday Cuppa

Once more ladies (yes, it is still only ladies who come) you have raised another £100 for Church funds at Cuppa. This makes it £2500 that you have raised since we started. Thank you for your support. All are welcome to come to St. Matthew's Parish Hall Lounge on a Monday between 2pm and 3-30 pm for a Cuppa and a chat. Or a knit and natter! Look forward to seeing you.

Barbara Jenks

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

Highfield Friendship Group

As previously mentioned, I have booked a trip from Wigan Pier to Crooke Village and back on the Leeds Liverpool Canal in May. Since there are only 20 members in our group and the boat holds 40, it was decided to invite up to 20 members of the Over-50s to join us. This invitation was accepted with a degree of alacrity (this means that they didn't hang about before accepting). So forty of us will now be sailing on the MV.Elleswake on the 26 May. The boat is now full, so I am afraid that we cannot accept anyone else. We will be enjoying fish and chips whilst on board and this will cost an extra few bob, so everyone will be paying for their own food.

However, this is all that they will be asked to pay, since our local councilors have said that they will fund the £450 cost of the boat hire from The Brighter Borough Funds. This is a generous gesture and we have to thank Clive, Marie and Paul for their continuing help.

Dave Whitter

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

St. Matthew's deep clean

A happy photograph of a group of volunteers who gave the church a much needed deep clean on Saturday 9th April in preparation for Holy Week – many thanks to all involved

Dave Whitter



Community Volunteers

Like all voluntary organisations, we rely on volunteers to help with our events and in the community. Since Covid, we have reduced in numbers, and need more like minded people to come forward and help with as much time as they can give. As well as our regular adult volunteers, we also have a small youth volunteer group, who support our Children's events, Santa Sleigh and our Christmas Market. Our committee meet every other month (6 times a year) at the Pemberton Masonic Hall. Our next meeting takes place in May. If you would like to join, our would like more information, please contact us at pembassoc@mail.com or visit our Facebook page (Pemberton Community Association) Dave Arrowsmith

Word Search

A prayer for Ukraine

Lord, we pray for Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. And so, we ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. De-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in you. And so we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: "Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; He shall be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10]. *Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.*



Ukraine

Spears

Lives

Deliverer

War

Burn

Crisis

Hope

Cease

Shields

Lord

In

Earth

Fire

Our

You

Break

Save

Rock

Be

Bows

many

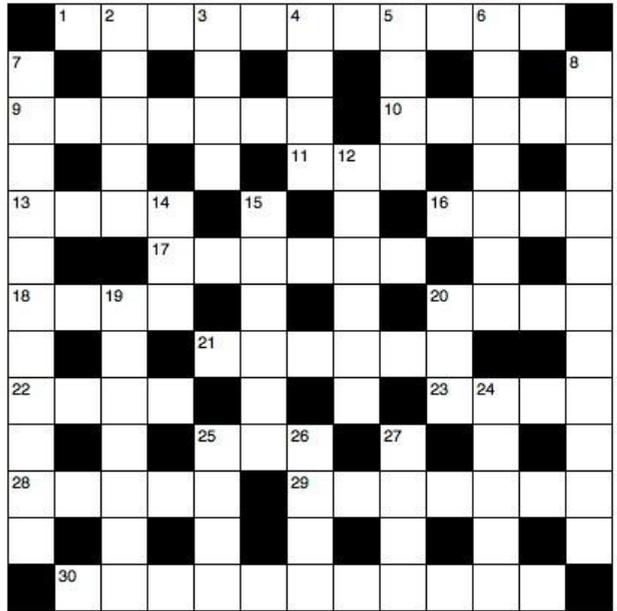
Fortress

Still

Shatter

Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
- 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
- 10 'Each man—a sword to his side'(Exodus32:27)(5)
- 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
- 13 Stagger(Isaiah 28:7)(4)
- 16 'Anyone,then,who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
- 17 Stir up or provoke (Acts13:50)(6)
- 18 Burden(Luke11:46)(4)
- 20 'As far as the east is from the—,so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
- 21 Sign(Luke23:38)(6)
- 22 'After that,Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
- 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
- 25 Has(anag.)(3)
- 28 'This is the account of Shem,Ham and Japheth,—sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
- 29 'I will...make them drunk,so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
- 30 Paul said of him,'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)



- 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
- 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
- 8 'Therefore, as we have — , let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
- 12 Acquire(2Timothy2:10)(6)
- 14 Container cover(Numbers19:15)(3)
- 15 'He...became obedient to death,even death on—!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
- 19 Refrain(1Peter2:11)(7)
- 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears'(Luke7:38)(3)
- 24 One who worships Brahma,Vishnu or Shiva(5)
- 25 'Give to everyone who— you'(Luke6:30)(4)
- 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills;where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
- 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
- 3 'A bruised — he will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
- 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
- 5 Slip (anag.) (4)

Surf Stage Festival 2022

Over the last three years in between restrictions Church Wigan has worked in supporting this fantastic festival and this year its four days and you can camp check it out, why not go for four days or maybe pop in for the day. Good music, food, beer, children and youth activities. A number of our Parish will be there and many will be serving at it too.



SURFSTAGE IS A FESTIVAL FOR EVERYONE.

Join us in our field in Parbold for a handmade celebration of music, food and fun. Created by Christians who believe Love is the Way, Joy is for sharing and Peace isn't just for hippies.

A four day eclectic event over the Jubilee Bank Holiday / Pentecost Weekend (2—5 June) with a jam packed programme.

What is Surfstage?

Surfstage is something new; created to celebrate and share God's love with the feel of a family music festival. Think of it as an incredible church weekend away, just a lot cheaper and organised by someone else!

What makes Surfstage unique is that it is not just for Christians. We designed Surf Stage to unite everyone wherever they are (or aren't!) on their spiritual journey. The event is equally suited to day visitors and campers.

Why should you come?

Surfstage takes people out of their everyday environment, inspiring them and giving them the opportunity to take a step forward in their faith. It's a great time to get to know people better, make new friends and meet with the Holy Spirit. We want festival goers to take home so much joy that people will be like whoa, I want some of that! Day tickets are free of charge, camping is £25 adults, £12 teens, £6 kids for the whole weekend.

The Surfstage Team

It's important to us that the event is free and open to everyone; we achieve this by asking people to volunteer. Everyone knows the best place to be at a party is in the kitchen... well the best place to be at Surfstage is on Team!

Helping out is an opportunity for your community to grow in confidence, faith and to develop valuable skills.

There are a wide variety of opportunities to serve on our festival teams. These include welcome, stewarding, hospitality, prayer and activities for kids, youth and adults each with options to get involved a little or a lot.

Go here to volunteer:- <https://forms.gle/tPpK5DJERpkWtm567>

For more information and to book, visit our website surfstage.co.uk
The Surfstage Team

St. Matthew's Parish Hall

It would not be right to omit to thank the C.I.C. Committee for their sterling work in redecorating the Parish Lounge and Hall recently. Also, the replacement of the lounge furniture, windows, blinds, carpet and flooring in general, as well as new stage curtains in the Hall. For financial reasons we have been unable to justify the expenditure involved in doing this work previously and the net result was it becoming, should we say a tad shabby. Not any longer, however.

With the change to a Community Interest Company, we became eligible to apply for grants not open to church premises. I am sure that the committee will continue to improve things where necessary as time goes by and when finances allow. 'More power to their elbow' as the saying goes. If we don't look after the place, no one will wish to hire it for functions, and we will be left with a 'white elephant'. We should all be immensely grateful to our predecessors in building the Parochial Hall some 65 years ago. Obviously, it has been immensely extended over the years, both by the church and by the Cricket Club. To rebuild it in this day and age we would be talking about millions of pounds, which would of course never happen. It is up to us to maintain the building and keep it in the best of condition for our successors.
 Dave Whitter



Burials and Funerals

St Paul's

21/03/2022 John Unsworth aged 75
 31/03/2022 Nellie Baldwin aged 91

St James with St Thomas

15/03/22 Marion Robinson aged 85

St Matthew's

2/03/22 John (Jack) Withington aged 95
 3/03/22 Jean Charnock aged 79
 8/03/22 Lilian Cawley aged 81
 10/03/22 Irene Rawcliffe aged 88
 18/03/22 Jeffrey Bradley aged 84
 22/03/22 Margaret Ashcroft aged 80
 24/03/22 Peter Worthington aged 82
 13/04/22 Reginald Arundell aged 97
 14/04/22 Hazel Ellen Green aged 69
 19/04/22 Norman Gregory aged 85
 20/04/22 Norman Hickson aged 84

Baptisms

March

Rosie Cunningham	St Matthew's
Ralph Joseph Hudson	St Matthew's
Lottie Louise Margaret Ruddy	St Matthew's
Darcy Fae Chesters	St James
Louie Jay Edwin Chesters	St James
Rosie Amelia Davies	St James

April

Ava Mullen-McNicholas	St Paul's
Mason Gary Greenall	St Paul's
Harry Thomas Ball	St Paul's
Chloe Emma O'Hare	St James
Lenny Andrew Gregory	St James
George Brian Gregory	St James
Parker Stuart Clark	St James
Emilia Rose Clark	St James

Donations



In memory of loved ones

From Florence Crook

Birthday memories of Sydney Clough

From Gillian clough

In memory of a beloved son, Neil alexander Wright (died 1982)

From mum and dad & brother Barry

Treasured memories of Ethel Hall. A dearly loved Mum, Gran and Gt Gran who died 2 May 2019

From Maureen, Eric, Adam and family

Loving birthday memories of a very dear mum, Grandma & Gt. Grandma. Jane Howarth (14 May)

From Joan, Denis & family

Treasured memories of a very dearly son (31 May) NEIL BERRY forever in our hearts

From an ever loving Mum & Dad

In memory of Bertha Presley
 Donations for Church funds

From the Writing Group

Loving birthday memories of a dear Aunt, Jane Howarth (May 14th).

From Ethel Greenall

Thanks to The Good Word Project (the book club based at the St James Centre) for a number of generous donations.

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.*

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. *Editor*

St Matthews

Assistant Warden

Andrea Wood 07734 447699

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 01942 218334

Gill Marsh 01942 207723

Brownies

Joanne Tabener/Elizabeth Gaskell

14thwigantownbrownies@gmail.com

Guides

Helen Albers 07960 920587

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

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 A Jackson 01942 243068

Need to book a hall?

St Matthews Church Hall:

Matthew 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 attend a service and ask to speak to someone from the Baptism Team.

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

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

Warden's Corner

As Martin said last month we are excited to be moving forward with the reordering of St Paul's church building. The PCC has approved the first stage to allow our architect to begin the detailed planning of the project. We aim to move this forward as quickly as is possible so that our building can be more fit to serve the community.



We are awaiting the insurance company's settlement of the claim for the fire damage in St Matthews Parish rooms. The site should become a source of income later in the year as it is to be let to the builders of the new road while the bridge over the railway is constructed.

A few days before writing this we held the last PCC meeting before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in May. As we begin our third year as the Parish of Wigan West it was really encouraging to receive the Annual Report and to see how much we have grown together and how new worshipping communities are flourishing and making a difference to peoples' lives.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the APCM to celebrate our parish and look forward to an exciting year.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit candle. The flame is bright and the background is dark. The text 'PRAY for UKRAINE' is overlaid on the image.

PRAY
for
UKRAINE

Please can you help with our Ukraine appeal.

**The collection point has changed and is now at
the Old Fur Clemp Warehouse - Central Park
Montrose Avenue, WN5 9XN**

**Drop off times are Mon, Wed and Friday
10am to 2pm**

Also during church services at St Pauls Church