

Wigan West



PARISH MAGAZINE

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

John 14:27



£1 February 2025

How can we stop time?

Yet another year has passed in a flash, and I am sure others have asked the same question. Does time really go faster as we get older? It certainly seems to. Some people think the reason for this is because a year is a bigger proportion of a child's life than an adult's life, but nobody knows for sure.



So what's the answer? Can we stop time? Probably not. But we may be able to make it seem as if it has slowed down. The secret is to do something new. As children we experience everything afresh and time slows down as we learn new skills and meet new people.

So as 2025 gets underway, why not try it? Make 2025 the year you did something different. Take up that chance to join a study group. See what classes are available. Perhaps learn a new hobby or language. In Wigan West Parish there are many opportunities to help others in the community or to make new friends. Why not come along to the Faith Café at St James' Centre in Poolstock on a Saturday, or to our new Community Café at St Paul's Goose Green on a Wednesday. Both are open from 11 am to 2 pm. As Christians we are called upon to love God and to serve our neighbours. Can you do that? Can you volunteer to help with our food pantry or visit the lonely, or help in one of our schools?

Don't be afraid. Sometimes the world seems a scary place and it is tempting to just want to hide away from it, but Jesus says to us "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" John 14:27.

So come along. You are needed. Help us to serve God and help our local community here. We are blessed in Wigan West Parish with the worship communities of Lighthouse, at St James School in Worsley Mesnes, Wellspring at St Paul's Hall, next to the school on Clapgate Lane, Goose Green and Shine at St Matthew's School in Highfield, as well as worship communities and lots of other groups that meet at St James' Centre Poolstock, St Matthew's Church and the Parochial Hall at Highfield and at St Paul's Church and Community Centre, Goose Green. There's something for people of all ages, and you will be very welcome to come along and join in. There is much to do and an ever-growing list of activities. Do have a look at all the information in this month's magazine. Who knows, you might even learn how to stop time!

I pray that this coming year may bring you many blessings, joy, laughter and may know God's love for you and for your families.

Revd Fran Team Vicar and Hub Leader, Wigan West Parish

ST JAMES LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP

2025–We made it at last!!! Happy New Year everyone.

At the last 2 meetings of 2024 we shared some good times together, making Christmas decorations with live greenery and artificial bits and pieces.

This activity was orchestrated by Jean Hogan who had collected all the foliage and Lorraine Winstanley who brought small jars and ribbon (that she rescued from her garage) Jean has had many years practice “doing the flowers” in church and demonstrated effortlessly a lovely Christmas floral display.

At our December meeting we had a lovely buffet, where we were joined by Rev’ d Fran and her husband Gary, and the kneeler for church in memory of Muriel Hardie, and worked by Marjorie Latham was dedicated. This was a very special moment, as Muriel was a resident of Clement’ s Court and a constant presence at our meetings.

This year we are having Revd Alison Brown to speak to us in January, and our own member Beryl Bowker in February.

Hopefully we can attract more visitors. There’ s no obligation and everyone is welcome, in fact “ladies” is our new misnomer as we do have one gentleman who attends every meeting with his wife.

February meeting is now the 20th. All meetings 7pm in the lounge at Clement’ s Court, tea and biscuits provided, voluntary collection.

Margaret (07906615501)





WELLSPRING NEWSLETTER



GAMER X TRIP

Earlier this year we won 30 free tickets for Gamer X in the Grand Arcade in Wigan

So in November we closed wellspring for a day and had a group trip there!

Great fun was had by all the children.

CHRISTMAS

We tried our first wellspring Nativity, and although it was the first time, it went surprisingly smoothly with cuteness levels peeking...

Then the last wellspring before breaking up we held our annual Christmas Party which is always a great end to the year.

HAMPERS

This year we provided 15 Christmas hampers to local families. Toms Pantry provided the food and the Salvation Army provided the toys! We also received 8 from Storehouse.

We also took donations to provide Coops Foyer with 24 gifts for the residents plus a sweet treat hamper.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

GAMER X



COOPS FOYER HAMPERS

NATIVITY





We finished last year with a Christmas Party which started with a celebration of, and BIG THANK YOU to, all our different volunteers who do lots of different things in different ways to make wellspring happen each week!



We asked “What is the BEST part of Wellspring?”

- ⇒ The support we receive through difficult times.
- ⇒ Being part of the community
- ⇒ The lovely people, just amazing
- ⇒ Fellowship, safe Space to share our feelings
- ⇒ New friends we made - always a lovely welcome
- ⇒ The atmosphere and people
- ⇒ Getting together
- ⇒ Everyone coming together
- ⇒ Meeting new people

Highfield Cricket

As we look forward to what 2025 might bring, we can reflect on a marvellous milestone year for our club. We celebrated our centenary and successes on the field, whilst continuing to engage with the community. Thank you again for all of your support. That community focus will remain centre stage in 2025 and we hope you will once again enjoy what we have to offer. Our sporting dinner at the end of March featuring ex Wales, Liverpool and Notts Forrest player Dean Saunders, and Britain's Got Talent finalist Les Gibson, is already sold out.

The captains for the senior teams this coming season are Mike Farrell (firsts), Ryan Allen (seconds) and Jack Cunliffe (Sunday thirds). This will be Ryan and Jacks first time as captains at Highfield and we wish all three the best of luck. All of our players will be wearing new kit this season as JH - Mortgages are the club's new shirt sponsor and partner, covering all senior and junior teams. The owner Jake Hughes has been supporting our juniors for the last two years and has now extended the partnership by a further three years to include new shirts for all teams and junior coaches. This will also enable us to move to T20 style-coloured kits for all of our junior teams which we are sure will delight our young boys and girls. Highfield CC Chairman, Gary Speakman, said: "Jake and his team at JH Mortgages, have been great supporters of our club

for a number of years. So, it was wonderful when Jake approached us to become the new shirt sponsor of all of our teams. There is already a great fit and chemistry between the JH Mortgages business and our club, which we will look to strengthen even further over the next three years. We also look forward to our membership utilising the excellent mortgage services offered by Jake and his team."

Jake Hughes, owner of JH Mortgages, said:

"It's an honour to continue my support with Highfield cricket club, to have started with a small sponsorship board in the corner of the ground to progressing into the main sponsor of all age groups is a great opportunity. Supporting local community projects is a big part of our business culture. JH Mortgages looks forward to supporting Highfield Cricket Club for the next 3 years."

The league season starts for the first team on Saturday 26th April with a home fixture against Southport & Birkdale CC. The second team are away that opening day at Bootle CC. At the time of writing, the Sunday fixtures for our third team were not known.

We are also looking to introduce a girl's cricket team this season. Whilst we do have girls playing alongside boys across our junior teams, we want to extend that provision allowing girls to play against other girls. More details to follow





but we are planning to run some indoor sessions in March and engaging with local schools before moving outdoors.

As its the earlier part of the year, this is a great time to consider how you might support our cricket club. We have a range of options for you:

Join our 100 Club Draw. Each month, your £5 entry might win you £150!! We have a few numbers available, so please join in the fun.

Sponsor a match this season and bring some friends along. We will feature your name or business on our matchday sponsor board plus social media platforms and provide you with 10 drinks vouchers for use at the bar. All for £100!

If you are interested in these or would perhaps like to have an advertising board on the ground, please contact Matthew Jones on 079308672092.

G a r y

Speakman

St. Matthew' s Boys Brigade

A Happy New Year to everyone! The Officers hope you all stay safe and well during 2025, or as Mr. Spock used to say: live long and prosper!

At January's Church parade, Anthony Rowan received his Gold Stage Badges for; Community, Skills and Recreation, and his ten years' service badge. Anthony's now left the Company to enter the big world. We wish him all the best for the future and hope he's enjoyed his time with the Company.



Company Section boys start the New Year with learning about the Ten Commandments as part of their Christian life. We are still looking for boys from the age of five years for Anchor Boys, eight years for Junior Section and 11 years for Company Section to join us. We meet on Wednesdays from 5.30pm to 6.45pm in the Community Hall next to our church at St. Matthew's. If you have a son who might be interested, or know someone whose son might be interested, please phone or text, 07759564128.

If anyone can help for an hour or so to teach the boys a subject, e.g. First Aid, Astronomy, basic microwave cooking or most other subjects, please get in touch. We'd like to get the New Year off to a good start for the boys.

Jim Harrison, Company Captain

St. Matthew's Guides

The last meeting held before the Christmas holiday was the nativity play the girls had been practising for. It was a big success and was enjoyed by all the parents and friends who came to support us. A special thanks was given to our leader, Amy Mottram, who had worked hard to get the girls in shape for the performance - hopefully not too many grey hairs appeared!!



At the end of the night Ella Wilson, Elizabeth Thorley, Molly Peacock, Heidi Drayton, Matilda Causey, Amelie Leggott, Charlotte Kindon and Erin Albers all made their Guide promise and we hope they will all enjoy their time in Guides.

We welcomed everyone back from the Christmas break to our Guide meetings on 13th January and started off with a quiz which made the girls think hard but was enjoyed by all. The girls also told us what presents they had received and the things they had done over the holiday which proved to be an interesting listen. We have asked the girls for the next meeting to bring some ideas of what they would like to do and places to visit, hopefully we will get some new and refreshing ideas. One idea was to ask parents to come to a meeting and tell us about their jobs. We also have some of the usual activities planned.

We would like to thank all those parishioners who took advantage of

St. Matthew's Rainbows

Happy new year from us, we hope you had a lovely Christmas and had a good time bringing in the New Year! In the last few meetings before we finished for Christmas, we spent some time creating Christmas crafts, including sewing our own little stockings with some Christmas decorations on them. We also made some little Christmas trees that can be hung as Christmas decorations. In the middle of all this we still managed to do some work towards earning the 'Be Well' where we did some exercise for a mind and practised some deep breathing exercises and some basic yoga poses.



At the time of writing this we have been back for one meeting since Christmas, we decorated cups with smiley faces and kind words or messages and planted cress seeds. The idea of this was to focus on acts of kindness which is important as Rainbows as it is part of our promise to be 'kind and helpful'.

The Rainbows

14th Wigan Town Brownies

At the time of writing this we have not yet our first meeting of 2025, but we can report on the weeks we had leading up to Christmas.



At the Christmas markets we had a stall to raise funds towards our annual levy which we have to pay to the Guide Association (estimated to be £49 per person in our unit). Lily, Katie, Nancy, and Betsy came along to run our lollipop version of a tombola and to name the dog. A lot of our prizes including the dog were donated and we were able to raise £115. Thanks to Martin for painting our board and painstakingly drilling 225 holes into it.



The following week at the Christingle service Katie, Amelia, Isobel, and Besty came along with their families to give out the oranges, it was a lovely service, and they did a great job.



On our last week we had party food of course and decorated biscuits into Christmas puddings. We

also said goodbye to Imogen who has been an amazing helper over the last eighteen months but for now needs to concentrate on her exams.

The Brownies



Christmas Day Lunch at St James Centre on Christmas Day

There are so many people to thank for making this the event it was. We had catered for fifty-five people, and we had around seventy-four. It was a huge success, and an enjoyable time was had by all, I am sure. I would like to thank our local councillors Pat Draper and Matthew Dawber and the food group Neighbourly for their generous money donations that made this possible. I would like to thank Christie Gaskell who owns England's Butchers at Pemberton for cooking the turkey and ham for us, the pigs in blankets which we cooked on the day. I would like to thank an army of volunteers who did the spud bashing, crossed all the sprouts, and did wonderful Julien carrots on Christmas eve. I would like to thank those who worked in the kitchen on Christmas Day cooked all the prepared potatoes and vegetables and cooked the pigs in blankets and made the gravy, including my youngest Son Andrew who was happy to help as long as I did not ask him sing. I did not of course but embarrassed him somewhat when I got on the microphone to sing the 12 days of Christmas. A huge thank you to those who ferried people to and from this event. May I thank those people who turned up on the day to help get the food out hot, to Jes and Sam for keeping the children entertained—and weren't they good! I want to thank those people who worked so hard beforehand making our church look beautiful and a special mention to Kathleen Moran who donated a real Christmas tree which looked spectacular. Most of all I would like to thank each and everyone of you for turning up and making Christmas lunch so special, despite us not having any stuffing. God bless you all and I hope you still have your feet up.

Here to share and care, with much love,

Revd Alison



I was once told that “the opposite of poverty is community” so it was a joy for us as *Lighthouse* to be involved in Christmas Day at St James Centre. Spending Christmas Day in church, lingering there, eating together, and not rushing home after a short service was a

delight.

We see in Acts that the early church spent their lives together, and throughout the gospels we see Jesus telling us over and over again to care for the less fortunate. In Matthew 25 Jesus says that He will recognise His followers by their actions.

In spending Christmas Day with our church family and inviting in people who might otherwise struggle on Christmas Day we are doing as Jesus intended.

Matthew 25 34-40:

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes

and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine,

Volunteers Event

Helped by a grant from a Community Charity, The Friendship Group at St. Matthew’s were joined by our Community Interest Club in holding an event celebrating all the volunteers within the St. Matthew’s part of our Parish. Held on Friday 3 January in the Community Hall, all members of every voluntary group were invited to spend a festive evening together as a way of saying thank you to those who give or have given up their time free of charge for the benefit of others. Hopefully the first in an annually held event, we were joined by approximately 100 people who were entertained by a local knowledge quiz, then a ‘Neil Diamond’ tribute act on the stage and then partook of an excellent hot and cold buffet and ‘one or two’ libations of a refreshing nature from the bar.

The groups representing in no particular order, were from the Clergy and Choir, church cleaning teams, the Churchyard Maintenance team, all youth group leaders, church organisations e.g. Smile. Cricket and Bowling Club committees and maintenance teams. PCC and CIC committee members. The numbers present effectively reminded us of how many people it takes to run and organise how our Parish runs in an efficient manner. In the main in the background and usually anonymous.

It also reminded us why we had decided to invite St. Matthew’s parishioners only on this occasion. Representing all three churches would have been impracticable due to the sheer numbers which could not have been accommodated. We hope that a good time was had by all and look forward to seeing all of you over the next 12 months in our voluntary capacities.

Dave Whitter

February 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	St James with St Thomas	St Paul's	Lighthouse
February	February	February	February
2 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion	2 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	2 Sunday 9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Baptism Service	2 Sunday 2pm Family Worship
6 Thursday 10.30 Holy Communion	9 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	5 Wednesday Holy Communion Little Lane	9 Sunday 2pm Family Communion
9 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Parade Service	16 Sunday 10.30 All Age Communion with Sunday School	9 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion	16 Sunday 2pm Family Worship
16 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Holy Communion 12.30 Baptisms	23 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion 18.30 Open Table	12 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	23 Sunday 2pm Family Worship
20 Thursday 11.45 Prayers		16 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	ALL SERVICES IN ST JAMES' SCHOOL
23 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Morning Worship		19 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	
		23 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	
		26 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	



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 5–7pm 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”



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

The advertisement features a background image of a wooden shed with a blue door and a green bicycle leaning against it. The text is bold and black, with a fist icon pointing towards the text.

Upcoming Events at St Paul's Church & Community Centre

PARKSIDE COLLIERY MALE VOICE CHOIR

Saturday 22 February at 7.30pm

Tickets £10, children £2

Book your reserved seat!

Call Arthur on 01942 223 351



PEMBERTON OLD BAND

Saturday 5 March at 7.30pm



WALGRAVE COMMUNITY CHOIR

Saturday 5 April at 7.30pm

WIGAN UKULELE BAND

Saturday 17 May at 7.30pm



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

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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

**At St Paul's Church
& Community Centre
St Paul's Ave Goose
Green Wigan WN3 5LH**

**Saturday 22nd
February 7.30pm**

**PARKSIDE
COLLIERY
MALE VOICE
CHOIR**

Tickets £10.00 Children £2.00

Book your reserved seat

Tel Arthur 01942 223351

Little Stars^{Toddler Group}

Free Play, Snacks, Story Time & Singing!

Little Stars Toddler Group

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

MONDAYS 9:30am - 11am

Cost is only £1.50 for
ONE adult & child

(Additional child is 50p)

From Birth to
School Age Children!



All Welcome!

Lifelines Café

Lifelines Café will meet in St James Centre on Friday 7 February at 1.30pm. We will meet, weather permitting of course and we will gather for a hot meal and a quiz. We will also look at events for the next few months. 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.

Lifelines Choir

The choir will meet on Monday 3 February at 1pm and again Monday 17 February. 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.

Open Table

Open Table Holy Communion will be at St James with St Thomas Church on Sunday 23rd February 2025 at 6pm. We meet 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.

Bereavement Support

Our bereavement support group will meet in St James church on Thursday 13 February at 1pm and again on Monday 24 February 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.

Deeper Discipleship

The Deeper Discipleship group will meet in church on Sunday 16 February at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. We will also serve some warm food. You are all welcome to attend if you have not been to one before. We will look at the bible, prayers and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It is not necessary to attend them all as it is not run like a course. **David Goulden & Alison Brown**

Name the local thoroughfares
They are all in the Highfield/Winstanley area

1	Journey to a North Yorkshire town	
2	Princess leads to a winding path	
3	A French city' s path, where romance often crosses	
4	You may find a black horse and a cherry tree here	
5	The way through the lowlands, between two hills	
6	A detective' s abode along a wide city path	
7	DELIVERS ROME	
8	A sun-kissed dwelling off a narrow road	
9	Are we in North London?	
10	Browns' road	
11	Derby County seem to have been seasoned	
12	This New Zealand knight took a very high road	
13	REQUEST TEEN	
14	Sounds like a lady horse has put on weight	
15	Does a very talented man live here	
16	Seasonal water	
17	Sounds like The Elephant man is nearby	
18	Yearning aspect	
19	Where the fellas go for a swim	
20	Sounds like some people are no longer allowed here	

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

WganWestHub 

Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the - heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to - your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in

14 Down: 'On - - let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)

25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

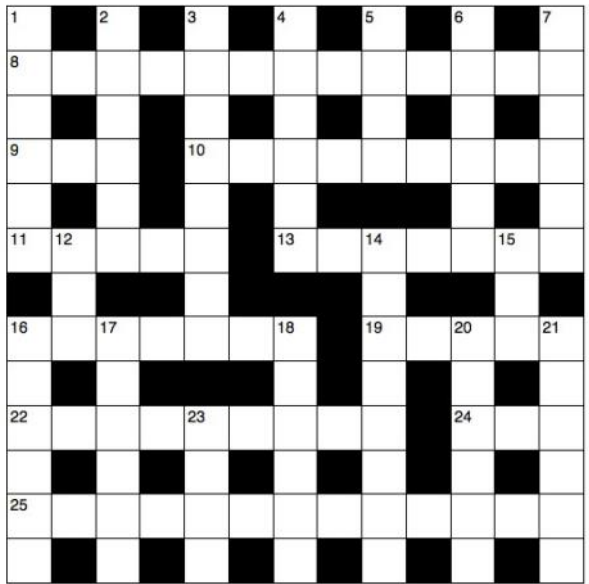
3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but - him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' - salt to - your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)



12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always - to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

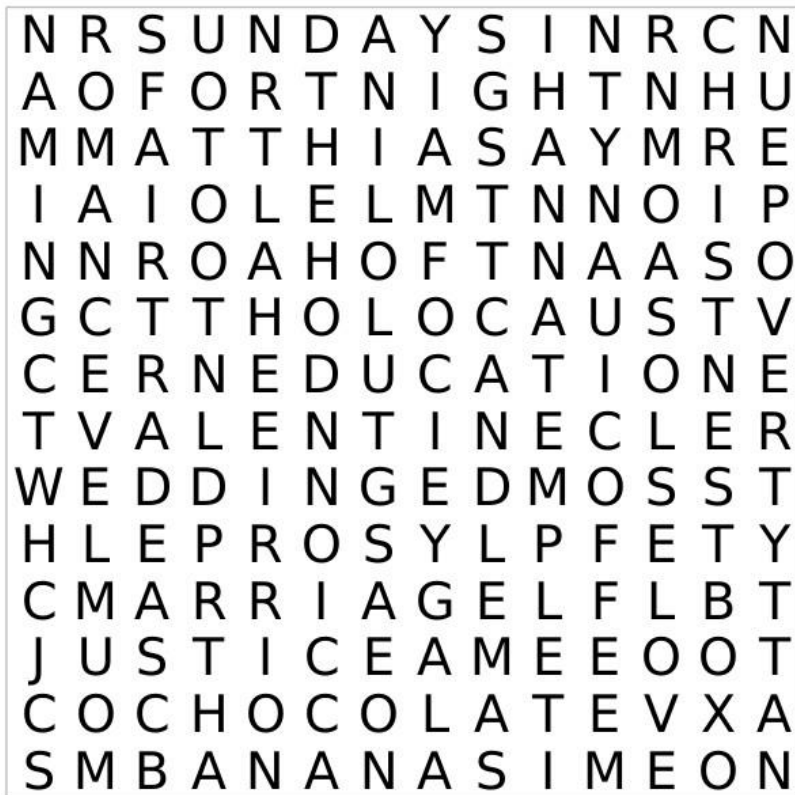
20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to - (Genesis 8:5) (6)

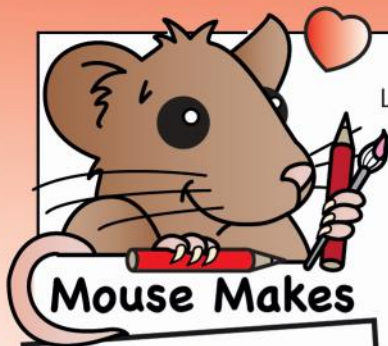
23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Word Search

February opens with Candlemas - the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between men and women: Valentine cards and wedding fayres abound. 'Love' as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, Education Sunday and National Nest Box Week... Love is truly needed by everyone!



- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| naming | Valentin | t | marriage |
| Christ | e | coffee | wedding |
| Candlemas | romance | bananas | Holocaust |
| Simeon | Matthias | chocolate | leprosy |
| Anna | Fairtrad | justice | education |
| temple | e | poverty | Sunday |
| love | Fortnigh | nest box | |



Mouse Makes

"Love is

_____ ,
love is _____ .
 It does not, _____
 it does not _____
 it is not _____ .
 it does not _____

_____ others, it is not self -

_____ it is not easily
 _____ it keeps no record of
 _____ .

Love delights in
 _____ it always
 _____ ,
 _____ ,
 _____ .

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____ ;
 His _____ never come to an end;
 they are new every _____ .

Lamentations 3:20-23



I pray... you will understand...
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how _____
 and how _____
 and how _____
 that **love** is.
 Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.
 whoever _____
 in **love** _____
 in God, and God _____
 _____ in them.

1 John 4:16

Give _____
 to the Lord, for He is _____ ,
 _____ his steadfast **love**
 endures _____ .

Psalms 136:1

HOW DOES
 GOD **LOVE** ME?

God sent me a saviour:

He sent His one and only
 Son into the world so
 that we might have
 eternal life through Him.

1 John 4:9

God gave me His spirit:

He has given you the
 Holy Spirit to fill our hearts
 with His **love**.

Romans 5:5

God called me His child:

See what great **love** the
 Father has for us that He
 would call us His children.

1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:

LOVE the Lord your God with
 all your **heart**, all your **soul**
 and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

LOVE your neighbour the
 same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

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

GOD • **LOVE**
 PATIENT • KIND
 GRACIOUS • PEACE
 JUST • TRUTHFUL
 TRUSTING • LOYAL
 HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERES
 ENDURES
 HUMBLE
 SELFLESS
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the Christmas Hamper Raffle at St. Matthew's which was held straight after the Christingle Service. Contributions came in the form of edible goodies and accessories (enough to assemble 18 hampers!!), and a big thank you to those who sold tickets for the event. With your generosity we raised over £1,000.

No	Hamper	Ticket Colour/Number	Winner
1	Food	Blue/244	Jean
2	Chocolate	Pink/63	Iain Matthewson
3	Chocolate	Blue/342	Andrea Withington
4	Jewellery	Purple/17	Brian
5	Drinks	Purple/136	Kathryn Whittle
6	Toys	Blue/179	Emily
7	Ringtons	Orange/207	Sylvia
8	Toiletries	Orange/66	Kathleen Smith
9	Food	Blue/295	Jimmy Stanten
10	Oriental	Pink/56	Angela Matthewson
11	Toiletries	Green/27	Tom
12	Toiletries	Green/51	Mark Burchall
13	Chocolate	Orange/74	Chris Webster
14	Christmas	Blue/314	Kerry
15	Lunalapin Sewing Kit	Pink/92	Freddie Matthewson
16	iPad/tablet rest	Blue/277	Lewis
17	Food	Green/108	G Rigby
18	Food	Blue/281	Lewis

Thank You

Very many thanks to all who during the past year, and especially during the run up to Christmas, have bought cards in aid of Church funds. This has helped us to make a considerable contribution on all our behalf. Please keep on buying and we will keep on making cards for sale. We are hoping to raise further funds by having a Spring Fayre in church and have other ideas for further events utilising the church so watch this space for future information.

Eileen & Barbara

WOW - what an amount that was donated for the vouchers for toys scheme. A grand total of £870.40. My thanks go to The Community Committee, Golden Years, The Guides, and you the congregation for donating such a wonderful amount. The ladies from Tiernan Lodge were thrilled to bits. Thank you again for your continued support.

Thank you so much who gave Shoeboxes for the Samaritans appeal.

Barbara Jenks

Altar Flowers - St. Matthew's

2 Feb - Mrs P Glover

9 Feb - vacant

16 Feb - Friendship Group

23 Feb - Mr D Whitter

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



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

Parish name: Parish of Wigan West **Parish code:** 220220288
Diocese: Liverpool Diocese

Address: Parish of Wigan West, Wigan Investment Centre, Waterside Drive, WIGAN, Lancashire WN3 5BA

www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/parish-of-wigan-west-wigan/

Tel: 0333 002 1260

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.

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

Pemberton Community Association

We hope everyone had a great Christmas break, we are now preparing our events for 2025, however, we are looking for more members to help our small group of volunteers. As well as supporting our residents and businesses, we provide children's events and a Christmas Market, we need more volunteers to help support these, for more information, you can email pembertonevents@post.com or call/text 07305 978989. Best wishes to everyone for an amazing 2025

Dave Arrowsmith



Wigan
Choral
Society

Save the date
COME AND SING DAY
Saturday 8th February 2025

Tickets £20
Wigan Choral Society
members £10

ETERNAL LIGHT

A REQUIEM

HOWARD GOODALL

Music provided

Reserve your place now at
wiganchoralsociety@gmail.com

Musical Director: John Powell
Accompanist: Russell Medley



Soloists:
Juliet Montgomery Soprano
Matt Secombe Baritone

Arrival 9:30am Finishes 4:30pm
St Matthew's Church, Billinge Road,
Highfield, Wigan, WN3 6BL





Baptisms

James Cameron Yorke	St Paul's
Myla Hughes	St Matthew's
Ethan Paul Singleton	St Matthew's

Burials and Funerals

St Paul's

St James with St Thomas

4/10/24. Ethel Crooke.	78yrs
19/11/24. Alan Thomas Bolton.	67yrs
20/12/24. Wendy Shirley Box.	80yrs

St Matthew's

William Ashurst	87yrs
Stephen Geoffrey Ashurst	66yrs
Graham Rigby	84yrs
Jean Barton	83yrs
Kathleen Withington	96yrs
Kenneth Holden	79yrs
Anne Benn	85yrs

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

Donations

In memory of David | Longhurst

From family and friends

In memory of Audrey and Peter Walker . Our dearly loved Mum, Dad, Grandparents and Great Grandparents

From Vivienne, Elaine and Martin

Cherished Anniversary Memories of our dear mother, Mary Jane Hankey (13th Feb) with love

From Marjorie, Jim and all the family.

Donation to church funds at Christmas in loving memory of Arthur & Ethel Hall. Loving parents, grandparents and great grandparents

From Maureen, Eric and all the family

Grateful thanks for generous donations of £250 each from both Highfield C.I.C. committee and St. Matthew's P.C.C. (Standing Committee) to enable the purchase of two additional petrol strimmers for use at St. Matthew's churchyard

From The Voluntary Churchyard Team

Donations from the sale of cards to St. Matthew's church funds - £140.50

From Eileen & Barbara

Donations from the sale of Christmas cards at the Christmas Market - £145

From Eileen & Barbara

Additional money raised at the Autumn Fayre of £70 to the church funds.

A donation of £100 towards Baptism Bibles

From the Thursday morning coffee club

In lieu of altar flowers and in loving memory of mum Margaret, with love to "Auntie" Marjorie Green

From Johannah Connolly (nee Whitter)

In loving memory of Sheila Highton

from granddaughter Kylie and great grandchildren Amelie & Jacob Leggott

In loving memory of Maureen Grimshaw

From Gill, Joanne and families, Graham Leather, Yvonne Roby & Pat Peet

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.*

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

Minute Secretary

Kathleen Moran 01942 255741

Clergy Administrator:

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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 January 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 01942 218334

Gill Marsh 01942 207723

Brownies

Joanne Tabener/Elizabeth Gaskell

14thwiganbrownies@gmail.com

Guides

Helen Albers 07960 920587

Primary School Headteacher

Mrs A Barron 01942 747818

St Paul's

Assistant Wardens

Cliff Unsworth 01942 933772

Maureen Gower 01942 234410

Miriam Unsworth 01942 933772

Pam Wilkinson 01942 716668

Geoff Birch 01942 227036

Reader Emeritus *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 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

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

Wardens Corner

Happy New Year! everyone. As I reflect on the festive season just passed, it was as busy as ever with numerous events across the parish involving all our worship communities, probably our busiest since the covid years.

In early January we held a celebration of volunteers in the Hall at Highfield. It brought together people from across Highfield who give freely of their time for the good of the local community. There was representation from the Church, graveyard team, uniform organisations, friendship group, golden years, bowling club and the cricket club.

We now have buildings across the parish with massive potential to build on the work we are already doing in the community. What we need now are people to who to come forward and get involved. Don't be shy. You might think you don't have much to offer but whatever it is you do it will potentially make a difference.

On the night there was a cryptic quiz of local street names. So, for those who were not there, you can find it on page 20. Answers next month.



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 Paul's Church