

Wigan West



PARISH MAGAZINE

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

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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Dear Friends

I can't quite believe I am now writing the Summer letter! Today my children have sports day and due to rain pre-covid, it's the first one for Izzy who is in year three. This summer we are looking forward to doing more, many people are hoping to go abroad on holiday for the first time although Manchester airport does not sound that enticing at present. We are also fresh from the fantastic Jubilee celebration nationwide and locally, a big thank you to everyone who helped with the many tea parties and a real highlight was our hub choir at our May hub service and evensong. As one member from St Paul's Choir prayed in one of our services, "Thank you Jesus for joining our choirs and sharing in love and worship together."



That same week I went to a lifted prayer meeting and we were hearing about our volunteers' boldness or as one person put it how good they are at blagging food that they will just ask. At evensong, I compared Queen Elizabeth and Joshua's ministry. That neither wanted to lead but were chosen and their leadership was based on what it says in Joshua chapter 1 verse 9.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Other translations say "be bold, be strong and courageous."

This is what we are seeing at present stepping out in faith to do this.

At the end of the summer, we shall not meet in our buildings on 28 August but we shall meet at Bispham, hopefully outside to worship at the end of a weekend of food, games and fellowship led by Wellspring and Lighthouse, all are welcome at any point of the weekend but would love us all to join together at 10am Sunday 28 August. There will be plenty of lifts available. We shall be sharing what has been happening, singing, and sharing an agape meal.

This is a bold moment.

Our food pantries across the whole of Wigan continue to be bold and as I said our volunteers are being bold.

In Highfield, we shall be planting two new worship communities in the Autumn, a café Church on the 4th Sunday of the month at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Then a worship community in St Matthews School around 3.30 after school. Do let us know if you would be interested in joining the team to enable this to happen.

Coming out of our confirmation prep we know we need to be thinking about what we can offer our young people and setting up a youth group, maybe you have a heart for this? Let us know.

There is so much more happening. Why is it happening?

Because people are being bold, strong and courageous for the Lord. To do this we need to take risks, but also need to take time.

Over the summer months, there will be plenty going on and in particular feeding families through our free hot meals each Tuesday and BBQ and faith café. It is also an opportunity to come and be, to be refreshed but also dig deep into what God might be asking of you to be strong and courageous for Him.

May your summer be filled with rest, and encounters and renew your love of Jesus and be ready to be bold for Him.

God Bless Mark

Summer Plans

This Summer we are looking forward to joining together and also we know the stress of cooking, feeding and finding cheap activities over the summer holiday so we are pleased to join together on lots of gatherings over summer all involving food!



Every Tuesday though the Holidays Tom's Pantry, Lighthouse and Faith Café will be hosting a free lunch 12-2pm, on 26 July and 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 August.

Faith Café are offering free food each Saturday thanks to a grant from our local councillors, these will be 23, 30 July, and 6, 13, 20, 27 August, and 3 September.

We shall also be hosting two BBQ with games and activities. These will be:

- Thursday 4 August 12pm-2pm at St Pauls Hall hosted by St Pauls and Wellspring
- Thursday 18 August 12pm-2pm at St Matthews Cricket Field hosted by St Matthews and CIC

Then to finish the summer we shall be gathering at Bispham for the weekend Friday 26 August—Sunday 28 August. This will include Saturday afternoon of games and a BBQ and finishing at 10am for our Hub service.

For more information on Bispham contact Lucy Haigh.

For the summer activities please contact Barbara our administrator.



Wellspring Garden at St Pauls School

The Kings Garden project in Wigan West Hub is a network of gardens planted at different locations by different worship communities.

One of which is the newly planted Wellspring Garden at St Paul's Primary School. Lead by Denise Oakley and supported by

Sue Callaghan, Lydia Helsby, Cliff & Miriam

Unsworth and the teachers at St Paul's. The children have been doing a fantastic job of keeping everything watered and enjoying planting lettuce, beetroot, tomatoes, rhubarb, sugar snap peas and leeks!



Last week children enjoyed taking home lettuce and Cliff brightened up a bench with paint. Mark Clarke and a team from Firtree Community Group are also supporting the garden by doing the heavy lifting and digging for us and they will be making a compost for us. We also have had 2 water butts donated that we can collect water in.

For me a special part of the garden is that it is a place that can be enjoyed by everyone, and being a quiet outdoor space perfect for families with special needs children who can't join in with other children's activities at Wellspring.

Denise would be grateful if anyone would like to help out from time to time, or come along and plant something. Contact Lucy Haigh 07900 252361 or Denise Oakley 07962 422856 for more information.



Worship Community at St Matthew's School

For the last 2-3 years we have been praying about the opportunities we have in St MATTHEWS School, we are pleased that Alison the headteacher and the Governors support this idea of planting a worship community in Schools like Wellspring and Lighthouse. We are building a team to run this, and don't know which day will be best but will be right after School with the invitation that families come together, meeting around tables and sharing in fellowship and discussions. A great opportunity for those who may not normally feel comfortable coming into a Church building.

Both of these new worship communities will bring an opportunity to draw new people into worship communities but enable us to do this we need people to be involved in planting them.

We need people to come and join to lead, speak, run discussion tables, do refreshments, make a meal at the School worship community, do crafts, and be a friendly welcoming face.

If you might be interested in getting involved in any of these please let Mark or Colin know.

We believe we are going to see many people come to faith as we are bold and take this step of faith, will you join in with us?

New worship communities coming to Highfield

As Mark said in his letter are planting two new worship communities in Highfield this Autumn.

Café Church at Parish Hall: From September 2022 we are going to be launching a café church every 4th Sunday of the month at 4 pm. Here we shall meet around tables, have different styles of music, discussions around tables, interactive activities and crafts and share refreshments throughout. Café Church has run in many different places this is a great opportunity to do something different later on a Sunday afternoon as we learn and worship together in new ways.

Confirmations 2022

We were delighted to join together with the Parish of Northwest at St John's Church Pemberton and joined by Bishop Bev and Bishop Cyril to confirm 36 people. 26 coming for Wigan West, 21 young people and 5 adults.

Confirmation is a key moment in people's discipleship saying yes I want to follow Jesus and we are looking forward to each one of these candidates seeing them grow as a follower of Jesus and stepping out in faith.

As a Parish each year we are going to offer Child baptism, Adult/ young person baptism in a pool or reaffirming your baptism vows (This normally would be after you have been confirmed and maybe you walked away from your faith) and also a confirmation service each year most likely with North West Parish each year.

The reason we are excited about offering these is that its what Jesus asked us to do. "Go make disciple and Baptise"

Please do pray for all those who have been confirmed in June, they are:

Isaac, Alyssa, Isabelle, Ellis, Daniel, Finley, Lois, Sophia, Mia, Grace, Grace, Craig, Masie, Rhys, Noah, Ryan, Henry, Matthew, Owen, Jes, Adam, Jonathan, Sienna, Betty, Amy, and Tracy.



St. Matthew's Churchyard Maintenance Group

We continue to meet weather permitting, on the last Saturday morning of the month at 10.00am. Last week (28 May) we finished weedkilling around the headstones, as well as hedge cutting, strimming and sweeping up. Martin had once again ridden his trusty Cricket Club mower down every lane and cut the grass, as well as doing the front of church as usual. He really does an excellent job for us, which previously cost church about £300 per month to a contractor. I had to buy another 5L of weed killer prior to doing the job and we now pay over £80.00 for it. The cost has increased from £50+ last year, which is frankly ridiculous. The Cricket Club paid for the last lot, which was generous of them, but we should not have to rely on them, so I insisted that the church bought this batch. No problems of course, but who would have expected having to pay £150 per year just for weed killer. The alternative would be a return to the 'jungle' the Churchyard was in the '70s. I have photographs taken then if you think that I exaggerate. You are welcome to see them.

So, if any of you feel like a bit of minor exercise once a month for a couple of hours please join us. You only need to work at the level you are comfortable with, and our ladies are usually on hand with tea, coffee and biscuits. It is surprising how good it makes you feel 'doing your bit'.

Dave Whitter

The Lord's Prayer

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

In Matthew's Gospel, chapter 18, we read the story of the unforgiving servant. A servant is in deep trouble. He owes his master a very large amount of money, and he can't pay it. When the master orders that the servant and his family be sold to pay the debt, he pleads for mercy. The master relents, and even cancels the debt.

Then, that servant meets a fellow servant who owes him a much smaller amount. He grabs him, demands his money, and when the poor man can't pay, has him committed to prison. The other servants are furious, and report what has happened to their master, who condemns the unforgiving servant, and has him punished severely.

Jesus's point is crystal clear. Each of us owes a debt to God which we cannot repay. We have sinned against him: all have sinned, and fallen short of the glory of God. In a way which we can never fully understand, by Jesus's sacrifice on the cross, we are reconciled to the Father. God has himself paid the debt that we owe. If we have offended God so much, and been forgiven, then how dare we remain resentful and vengeful against those who do us much smaller wrongs?

But, then, what happens to justice? We may all be sinners, but there are terrible wrongs in the world. Just because I am a sinner, that doesn't mean it is right for me to be raped or murdered. Great harm has sometimes been done by pastors who have advised women abused by their husbands that they should keep on forgiving them and stay with them. To forgive is not to condone evil. It is not loving to enable someone to continue in wrongdoing. Evil has to be named and confronted, and this will sometimes require drastic action, perhaps involving the criminal law. Forgiveness is not a get-out-of-jail-free card.

To forgive is not to deny justice. But it is to deny hatred. A person may need to be punished, but they are not harmed by continued hatred and resentment – it is the person who hates who is harmed. Those of us who have not been the victims of terrible crime have no right to demand that victims instantly forgive their attackers. But Jesus's words still ring true. It has been said that nursing resentment is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die. Gordon Wilson, the Irishman, and later Irish Senator, whose beloved daughter Marie was killed by an IRA bomb, refused to nurse hatred against her killers. His grief and humanity in a broadcast interview shortly after the blast touched the world.

"The hospital was magnificent, truly impressive, and our friends have been great, but I have lost my daughter, and we shall miss her. But I bear no ill will, I bear no grudge. Dirty sort of talk is not going to bring her back to life. She was a great wee lassie. She loved her profession [nursing]. She was a pet and she's dead. She's in heaven, and we'll meet again."

But that did not mean he excused her killers' action. Through the worst years of the Troubles, he continually met with IRA and Sinn Fein leaders, and asked them the simple question, "Why did you kill my Marie?"

I have read this passage many times, but I still find tears coming to my eyes. It is the heart of the gospel. Evil is to be named and shamed, but it cannot be allowed the last word. Both victim/survivor and perpetrator are greater than the evil – it need not permanently define either of them. Mr Wilson's turn of phrase is more powerful than any theological abstraction. Nothing is achieved by "dirty sort of talk."

Jesus's words, which he commends to us for prayer, are a call for kindness. We are all in need of forgiveness. Chronic resentment is a corrosive acid which eats away at our souls. Next time you pray these words, stop and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the strength to lay all your burdens of hatred, resentment and hurt at the foot of the cross.

Gordon James



St Matthews Guides

We have continued our meetings with an evening spent baking cakes and flapjacks in the Parish Hall kitchen which gave us plenty of room and is always an enjoyable activity. We celebrated the Queens platinum jubilee with a party and some old-fashioned games which we held after the half term break; the girls had made some of their own bunting for the evening at an earlier meeting. The theme was red, white and blue or to dress up which all the girls did enthusiastically. The following week was spent making Father's Day cards and gifts. Hopefully we will be able to spend some evenings outdoors and before we finish our meetings for the summer holidays, we will be having a sponsored walk from the parish hall to Orrell Water Park. Our next item will be in the September magazine, thanks to all parents and friends for supporting us through the difficulty of the parish rooms being destroyed by fire and our moving to the parish hall for our meetings. We have had an eventful time since we recommenced our meetings in September and getting used to our new surrounding which we are now starting to feel more at **home** in. At the June church parade the Guides helped out by collecting the questionnaire papers that had been given out and Emily Louis took the collection up to the altar. Thank you. The Guiders.

Faith at Home youth pages!

Mark 4:26-34

**Then Jesus said
"Gods kingdom is like a seed
thrown on a field by a man who then goes to
bed and forgets about it.**

**The seed sprouts and grows,
he has no idea how it happens.
The earth does it all without his help.**

**First a green stem of grass,
then a bud, then the ripened grain.**

**When the grain is fully formed he reaps -
harvest time!**

**How can we picture Gods kingdom?
What kind of story can we use?**

**Its like a pine nut.
When it lands on the ground it is quite small,
yet once it is planted it grows into a huge pine
tree with thick branches.**

Eagles nest in it."

Hello!

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

What or who has God given us, so that we may grow and flourish, so that He doesn't have to worry too much about us? Why not try planting a small seed at home. Give it all it needs, but don't worry about it growing. As long as you give it all it needs. See what happens. Hopefully your seed grows and may produce more seeds for the future!



This story is a message of hope, trust and a promise that God provides all that we need to grow and flourish through the Holy Spirit. Trust, allow and let the Holy Spirit do His work in us.



Reflection

Like the seed at harvest time, we will be the best we can be. We continue to grow, replant and bring others into God's great kingdom.

**Caring God ,
thank you for this promise of growth. Help us not to worry,
but trust, allow, and feel the work of your Holy Spirit. So we
grow and be the best we can. So we can share this gift with
others and grow your kingdom from small seeds.**

Amen

July Services

St Matthews

July

- 3 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 7 Thursday**
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
- 31 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion

St James with St Thomas

July

- 3 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
with Sunday School
- 10 Sunday**
10.30 All age Baptism service
- 17 Sunday**
10.30 All age Communion
with Sunday School
- 24 Sunday**
10.30 Sung Communion with
Sunday School
- 31 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion

St Pauls

July

- 3 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Service of the Word
- 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 with
Sunday School
- 27 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion
Refreshments from 10.00
- 31 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Service of the Word



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



Lighthouse: Every Friday after
school at St James Centre.

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



WiganWestHub

August Services

St Matthews	St James with St Thomas	St Pauls
August	August	August
4 Thursday	7 Sunday	7 Sunday
10.30 Holy Communion	10.30 Service of the Word with Sunday School	9.00 BCP
7 Sunday	14 Sunday	10.30 Service of the Word
10.30 Holy Communion	10.30 All age Baptism service	10 Wednesday
14 Sunday	21 Sunday	10.30 Holy Communion
9.00 BCP	10.30 All age Communion with Sunday School	Refreshments from 10.00
10.30 All Age Parade Service	28 Sunday	14 Sunday
21 Sunday	10.30 Hub Service Bispham Hall, Billinge	10.30 Holy Communion with Sunday School
9.00 BCP		17 Wednesday
10.30 Holy Communion		10.30 Holy Communion
12.30 Baptism Service		Refreshments from 10.00
28 Sunday		21 Sunday
10.30 Hub Service Bispham Hall, Billinge		10.30 Service of the Word with Sunday School

Special Hub Service 28 August

On 28 August we are having a special hub service at Bispham Hall. There will be no other services in West Hub on that day. Our worship communities of Lighthouse, Wellspring, and others are camping at Bispham that weekend and we will end their time together with a communion service at Bispham. This will be our summer hub service. We are offering lifts to anybody who would like to come. For those who don't want to travel there will be services in northwest and town centre parishes on that day. This is a great opportunity to come and worship together, joining all our worship communities around the Lord's table.

24 Wednesday
10.30 Holy Communion
Refreshments from 10.00

28 Sunday
10.30 Hub Service
Bispham Hall, Billinge

31 Wednesday
10.30 Holy Communion
Refreshments from 10.00

A Vision for Music.

*From David Goulden,
Organist and Choirmaster,
St. James with St. Thomas*

As all at St. James will be aware, we are privileged to be witnessing many changes in our daily lives and worship. Exciting prospects are opening up, especially how we can serve our church community and the wider community of Wigan. Undoubtedly music plays a great part within both our worship and indeed our lives *per se*, and it has been made clear to me that I have a mission to open up the style and genre of worship songs at St. James. Now before some of you get in a flap, let me be clear I too love many of the old hymns they speak to my heart just as they do you, and they will always feature within a good proportion of our services, but we can't be blind to the needs of our wider church family, which I praise God when I say is expanding weekly – the work of Lighthouse and the number of children coming to church through their ministry is simply staggering and the new families that it is attracting into the various forms of our worship. Tom's Pantry is a ray of Christian hope and a beacon to those who are struggling to make ends meet – this mission has brought new members into our congregation. All this cannot be ignored and the music in our worship must reflect their preference too. Fortunately, with the introduction of the new formats for worship combined with some Sundays reflecting a more traditional element we have a perfect mix in which the music style can expand and reflect all preferences.

I am sure you will by now have all noticed we have some wonderful new musical equipment to help us fulfil our new vision. At the back of the church is a state-of-the-art digital piano for the use of Sunday School and the Dementia Friendly Choir; it has the facility to amplify external instruments like a guitar, you can prerecord material and it will play it back for rehearsal purposes, link directly to a laptop computer, and many more features. The star of the show for me is the beautiful Bluthner Grand piano which has recently seen action in both two concerts free to the community and a Sunday Service – it will certainly be used extensively in our upcoming program of musical events, I'm sure. Of course, these instruments link into our wider musical vision, in so far as we have these facilities, we can open up our concert events to the community in so many more and differing ways. The church can derive an income stream from this and, yes, that is important – we need to thrive financially so we can be a living embodiment of the good news brought to us by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, but most importantly, more and more people will enter the doors of the St. James Centre to feel that warm welcome and a willingness to serve which is the hallmark of all the people connected with St. James, which I believe is the very vehicle the Holy Spirit will blossom and work through.

I said right at the beginning that these ~~are~~ are exciting times for a new vision for

music at St. James Centre, but it's just not my vision: you can make it yours too, by helping and making suggestions for events if we all come together and drive this through. I am sure the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of those whom this vision touches and St. James the church will grow and flourish. I keep above my computer in my study this quotation from Proverbs, which has always meant so much to me, and I share it with you: "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." This vision will succeed because at the front, back and side will be Our Lord and Saviour and he makes the possible a reality. God bless you all.

David

It has been very exciting to come back to Wigan after spending the last 3 years as a curate in Eccleston, St Helens. I started my portfolio role back in January but it has taken until now for me to be officially licensed to West and North-West parishes.

My portfolio role is related to funerals and bereavement ministry. This does not mean I will be doing all the funerals across the whole of Wigan, although I will be doing my fair share. What it actually means is that I will be working with the various funeral directors across Church Wigan as a chaplain. Being available for them to talk about anything to do with Church funerals but also with the work they do in general.



The other part of my role is to identify and work with the various bereavement ministries across Church Wigan to ensure they have the necessary support to continue this vital work with those who have been bereaved, both recently and in the past, as needed.

As part of these areas I am also trying to work with the clergy and non-clergy who take funerals on behalf of the church to ensure good relationships are maintained with the funeral directors. With the non-clergy who take funerals I hope to support them and enable them to feel valued in the role they have taken on.

As of the 19 June I will be licensed as an Associate Priest in the West and North-West parishes and will be taking services. This will have taken place at St Peter's Church in Hindley and will have been for both myself and my colleague Steve Clarke. To celebrate my licensing we are holding a bring and share lunch from 12.30pm on 10 July in St Paul's Hall. The reason for the later celebration is that I will be going on my two week summer holiday from 24th June and we will have simple refreshments at St Peter's after the licensing service.

I hope that you can join us on the 10th as it would be lovely to get to know people I haven't met before and to catch up with those who have known me and Gordon for many years.

Anita

Notices

The Friendship Group

In May almost 40 of us had a very pleasant trip on board a narrow boat the Elleswake, on The Leeds, Liverpool canal from Wigan Pier to the marina at Crooke Village. We invited our friend Pat Peet and her ladies from The Golden Years group to enjoy fish and chips with us and of course the odd drink from the onboard bar. We made the trip courtesy of our local councillor and now our Mayor, Marie Morgan, who used some of her discretionary funding to pay the cost of the boat hire. We are all grateful to her and husband, fellow Councillor Clive once again, for stepping in to help us in this way.

In early June we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Anniversary by holding a celebratory buffet in our Parish Hall, thoroughly enjoying ourselves. We had invited her Majesty to join us, but she was a bit poorly and sent her apologies. We hope to receive an invitation to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in reciprocation. We have also planned further outings over the next few months, starting with a trip to Knowsley Safari Park in July and a wander round Bent's Garden Centre a few weeks later. Whilst we aim to meet weekly on Wednesday afternoons in the Parish Hall for a chat and a cup of tea and cake etc., it makes a pleasant change to get out and about occasionally. Relatively local trips like the aforementioned, we do so using the private cars of our members. It is only the trips planned for further afield where we must meet the costs of coach transport which can be quite expensive. However, except for two trips which have been funded by the Wigan Brighter Borough scheme we are totally self-funded. However, we may need financial assistance with our next cruise, around the world trip planned for next year on board The Queen Mary **Dave Whitter**

Food Pantry Donations

At the time of writing, (6th June), we have collected just short of £9000 from St. Matthew's parishioners to donate to our Food Pantry. An admirable

total which hopefully will exceed £10,000 within the next few months. However, a number of people can't give anymore, but there are a number of different ways that you can give, with the brown envelopes are still at the back of church; please remember to write your name on them. Please let Dave know but also now Lifted (The food pantrys) have a official bank account so can set up direct debits or one of payments direct.

These donations support 5 food pantry's across Church Wigan and we are already seeing a increase in need as we see the rise of living costs. Also In November we shall be appointing a CAP (Christians against Poverty) debt manager which will help people get out of debt.

This donations are so important and help so many.

Dave and Mark

St. Matthew's Women Fellowship

There will be no meeting in July & August as enjoy our summer break and will recommence on 1st September

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

Sheila Highton

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

Camping at Bispham Scout Camp

Wellspring and Lighthouse are hosting a camping trip to Bispham Scout Camp Friday 26th August - Sunday 28th August. There are still spaces for tents and all food is provided from Supper Friday night through to breakfast Sunday morning at a cost of £20 per person for camping & food (under 5s are free).

If you don't want to camp, there are games throughout the day on Saturday and a BBQ Saturday 5pm at £3 per person. Please let Lucy (07900252361) know if you are coming for the BBQ only.

St Matthew's 14th Wigan Town Brownies

This last month saw us celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, at our meeting we played Jubilee bingo and had our photographs taken in a portrait of Queen Elizabeth.

We also held a Jubilee tombola at the Cricket Club Fun Day, when all the prizes whatever they were had to be red, white, or blue. We had volunteers from the Brownies (and a Guide) to help on the day and they proved to have very persuasive sale techniques to sell all of the tickets. Thank you to them and to everyone who generously donated towards it.

As hopefully the weather is warming up, we are planning to do some gardening around the Parish Hall. We have secured funding to buy the tools and gloves for the girls and it means we can contribute to the upkeep of the building in a small way.

At the June Parade service Lily volunteered to do the reading-well done!

The Brownie Guiders



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

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*

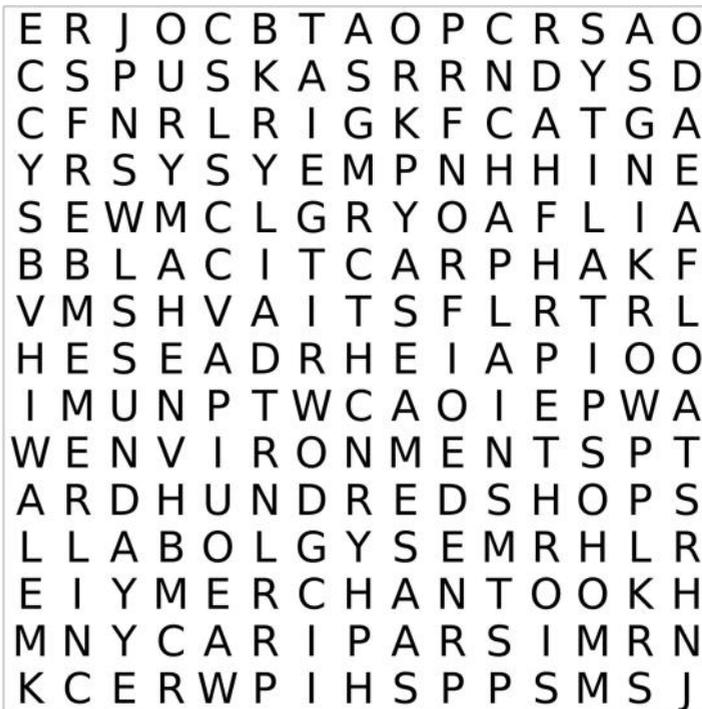
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Word Search

Sea Sunday

10 July brings us Sea Sunday, the day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers and fishermen worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck.

To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port chaplains has sprung up. They offer hospitality and friendship, as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a 'home from home' in hundreds of ports, in more than 50 countries. You might wish to support one of these three well-known societies: The Mission to Seafarers (Anglican), The Apostolate of the Sea (Roman Catholic), and The Sailors' Society (inter-denominational).



July	Merchant	Harsh	global
Sea	Seafarers	Working	Port
Sunday	Daily	Environments	Chaplains
Remember	Shops	Piracy	Hospitality
Pray	Economy	Shipwreck	Friendship
Give	Afloat	Hundreds	practical
Thanks			

Across

1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)

3 'Shall we go up again — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)

8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)

9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)

11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31)(10)

14 In Cain(anag.)(6)

15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)

17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)

20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church (8)

21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom!Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)

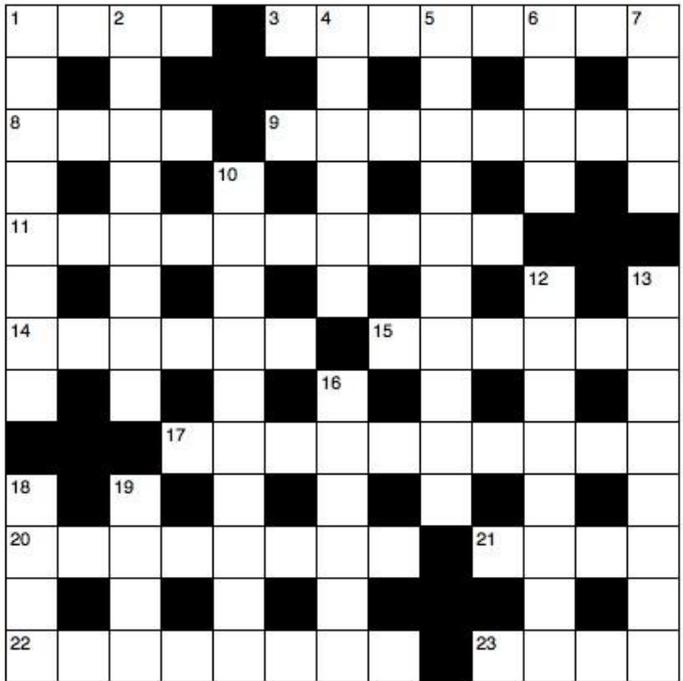
22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)

23 'As the — pants for streams of water,so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)

2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations



2:22) (5,3)

4 'We three kings of — are' (6)

5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)

6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)

7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)

10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)

12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)

13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)

16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)

18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)

19 Rear(anag.)(4)

New Chair of Governors

My name is Joel, and I am the new Chair of Governor's at St James CE Primary in Worsley Mesnes. I have been a governor at the school since 2019 and it is an honour and privilege to be elected as Chair until the end of the next academic year.



I am following in the footsteps of Sam Rusling who has done a fantastic job working with the school and supporting their journey. I am also on the governing body at St Pauls.

Aside from governance, my day-to-day role sees me working in IT support across schools in the Liverpool Diocese and I am fortunate to have come across some wonderful schools whose faith and Christian mission is evident from the moment you step in the door.

I currently live in Pemberton with my young daughter, partner, and Dalmatian dog! Over the next 12 months I want to work with the new Headteacher at St James to develop links to the community and to support those living on the estate as much as possible. The school is working hard to develop a full and enriching curriculum and to raise aspirations. I would ask that you join me in praying for the school as it strives to provide the best quality of education for its pupils. We pray that the staff feel supported, valued, and inspired to continue their hard work and make a difference to the young people's lives.

Please pray for us as we look to recruit a new School Business Manager who will be critical in helping the school address its challenges.



Childhood Memories

I can hear them now, "He's off again talking about how old he is getting and how life was better years ago." Well I don't care, and, in any case, I have never said that life was better, just that it always seems so when you think of what we did as children and teenagers that they don't do now. It is true that the passage of time lends a romantic air to the pastimes of years ago and compared to some, I don't go back that far. I am sure that there are still those amongst us that look back nostalgically to games like 'clog porrin' and other similar pastimes and yes, I made that up; but the advent of computer games and the myriad things that kids today can do with mobile phones have killed a multitude of games that we used to play. Remember skilly, kick can and hop it, roller skating, making pea guns and catapults, playing with whip and top, and chalking coloured designs on your top, or 'window breaker', marbles and playing 'chucky', jacks, tap latch, drop penny, throwing a ball at kerbs, all across, pirates, playing Cowboys and Indians (cultural appropriation now), using your fingers as guns and pulling back pretend bows, making soap box carts using old pram wheels, conkers, making ice slides in the school playground in winter, before the caretaker came out with a shovelful of ashes from the school boiler to throw on it, etc. etc. etc.

The PC brigade would throw a fit at playing with even pretend guns and the Health and Safety crowd would have a field day with the pea guns and catapults, soap box carts, playground slides and even ridiculously, playing conkers! Yet we are still here. Remarkably few of us were killed, injured or maimed by our experiences; in fact we were probably a lot fitter, not least because 'big macs' didn't exist in those days either. Unless you meant your dad's large raincoat that is! Sadly, other victims of television, video games and so on, are the youth organisations. We went to youth clubs and were in the Boys' Brigade, Scouts, Guides etc. and it was common to continue with these up to the age of 18 when we gradually realised that there was more than one sex. I think that nowadays they realise that fact a lot earlier than we did. Nowadays we still get younger children going to Rainbows, Brownies, Junior BB, and Guides, but they lose interest when they are still comparatively young, particularly boys. The computer age has a lot to answer for!

When we were teenagers we would congregate on the 'Rec' as we called the cricket field. There were no fences round it then, because there were no vandals and yobs causing mindless damage. There were as many as forty of us in summer and even in winter there was always somebody there every night of the week, regardless of the weather. We were evenly matched between boys and girls and by 9 o'clock the majority had departed home to meet the curfews set by most mums. There was no damage caused, no graffiti, we had no complaints from neighbours and in any case Bert Gee the Churchwarden would often stroll round keeping his eye on us. He was treated with respect, because that is how we had been brought up. I suppose that I later became the 'Bert Gee' of my time when I was Churchwarden, which is a frightening thought. Though I draw the line at the overcoat and trilby he was rarely seen without.

We never had simple parties when I was a teenager. On birthdays we held 'Musical Evenings' in our houses. Parents rarely went out at such events, they stayed in another room, whilst we played 'spin the bottle', and when very young our birthday parties were held at home, not at bowling alleys, cinemas, adventure parks etc. at great expense for our parents. We had paste butties, sausage rolls and jelly made by our mums, if we were lucky. Not all of us were lucky, however. Mum couldn't charge the cost to her credit card, they didn't exist! If you didn't have the cash, you went without. I could go on and on of course, but I am sure that in fifty years' time the youth of today will be telling their children and grandchildren how much better life was when they were young, and who is to say that they won't be right. One thing is for sure however, none of my generation would swap their childhood for what they would have today. Though I suppose every generation feels the same. If they enjoy their childhood, I suppose that is all that is important.



Donations

In memory of Benjamin Wilson

From his daughters Helen & Jane

Wedding Anniversary remembrance

(1954) of Sydney & Marion Baron.

Thank you so much for a lovely service for my mum Joyce Major

From Christine & Cliff Smith, Steven Smith & Andrea Telang

Donation

From the Friday Ladies

Treasured memories of Ronnie Green

From his loving wife Margaret

Treasured anniversary memories of Bob Highton

From his loving wife Sheila

In loving memory of Margaret Whitter and her Mum Margaret Thomsen in lieu of altar flowers

From Dave & family

In loving memory of Ethel Hall, a greatly loved

Mum, Gran & Gt. Gran in lieu of altar flowers

From Maureen, Eric, Adam & family

In loving memory of our lovely Dad Jack Matthews (d. 29/7/21) in lieu of altar flowers

From daughters Pauline, Linda, Barbara & Beverley

In loving memory of a much loved Mum & Dad, Stanley Pitchforth (d. 12/7/72) & Blodwen Pitchforth (d. 12/8/97)

From daughter Sandra

In memory of dearly loved Eileen Parkinson, died 18th July 2021,

From Jimmy, Julie, Jack & Liam.

In loving memory of Derek Hogan friendship & memories last forever

From Glenys & Bert.

In memory of Jean O'Hara (Funeral 14th June),

From Maureen and family, Betty and family,

Eileen, Kathleen, Margaret Hastings, Jean and

Margaret Lavin.

In memory of my mum, Jean O'Hara,

From Elaine & Lee.

In loving memory of Jean O'Hara

From Barbara & Derek, Helen & Chris, Kathryn.

In memory of Jean O'Hara.

In loving memory of Jean O'Hara, a lovely lady.

God bless

From Norman, Margaret, Peter & family.

In loving memory of Jean O'Hara

From Joan, Denis & Suzanne.

In fond memory of Jean O'Hara, a dear friend.

Donation in memory of Jean O'Hara.

In memory of Jean O'Hara

From Kath & Tony Gerring.

In memory of Jean O'Hara

From Rosalie & Robert Rigby.

Precious birthday memories of Mary Jane Hankey (July 23rd) with love

From Marjorie, Jim & family.

Donation towards new notice board at St.

Matthew's church.

From Eileen and Barbara.

Memories of a beloved husband Bob

Sharrock 4th July

From Margaret Sharrock

Wonderful memories of Rev. Jack Winnard

5th July God bless

From David Berry

Burials and Funerals

St Paul's

St James with St Thomas

19/05/22 Jean O'Hara aged 83

St Matthew's

Baptisms

May

Reggie Wyn Critchley

St Matthew's

Isla Kinghorn

St Matthew's

Archie Mathew Liptrot

St Matthew's

June

Theo Ethan Davies

St James

Roman James Cheetham

St James

July

Hallie Hannah Harman

St Paul's

Riley Stephen Baldwin

St Paul's

James Michael Baldwin

St Paul's

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's

Andrea Wood 07734 447699

Shelia 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

14thwigtownbrownies@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

Maureen Gower 01942 234410

Miriam Unsworth 01942 200229

Pam Wilkinson 01942 716668

Geoff Birch 01942 227036

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

I promised to keep you updated regarding the proposed re-ordering of St Paul's Church Building.



A subgroup of the PCC is leading the process. In the last few months we have made quite a lot of progress. We've met with Archdeacon Mike and he is very supportive of the project which will help us when we are in a position to submit plans to the Diocesan Advisory committee (DAC), whose permission we need to proceed. After meeting with our architect several times, she is now drawing up a draft plan of what we would like to do.

We'll be sharing this over the next few weeks to get comments and suggestions from you so that we can 'fine tune' the plans before submitting them to the PCC and then DAC for approval.

As a team we are excited about the prospect of getting this project underway. Please pray that all involved are granted wisdom and discernment so that we really do follow the Lord's plan for our parish.

PRAY
for
UKRAINE

Please can you help with our Ukraine appeal.

The collection point has changed and is now at

St Paul's Church, Goose Green, Wigan WN3 5LH

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

Also during church services at St Pauls Church