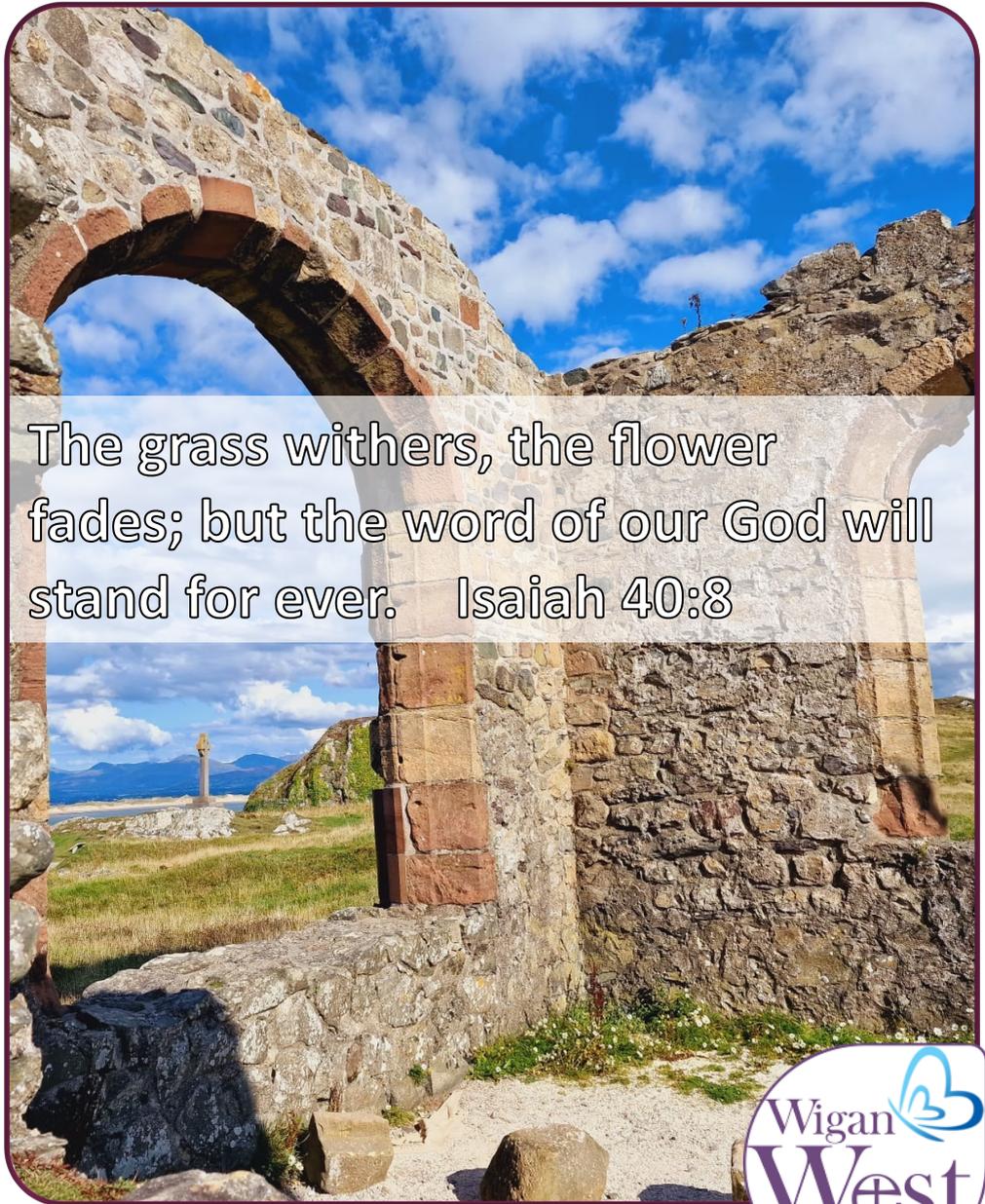


Wigan West



PARISH MAGAZINE



The grass withers, the flower
fades; but the word of our God will
stand for ever. Isaiah 40:8

£1 May 2025



Writing this piece for the May magazine, when spring will have truly sprung, it seemed weird to me that the verse "The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever" [Isaiah 40:8] should stick in my mind.

This verse first came into my consciousness some forty years ago, when the building of the parish I was a member of was about to be demolished; it was riddled with dry rot. I had not long turned twenty and was very new in my faith. The people of that parish were joining with the people of two other parishes, whose buildings were also beyond viable repair, to create something new. Sound familiar?

Forty years on and the people [the church], with whom I began my journey with Jesus, is still there worshipping, praying and serving. Providing for their communities and being the light of Christ in their ever changing area. The word of our God clearly demonstrated to be of timeless worth.

It can be hard to accept, but sometimes the things of old that we cherish so much and were so beautiful in their time need to change to bring new life. Flowers, so colourful when they first bloom, fade and die so that the seeds of the new plant can find space to bring new beauty in more places.

The next verse [Isaiah 40:9] goes on to say, "lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear".

The value each of us brings to our respective communities is far more than just ourselves, for we are each part of something greater. We are the family of God, sisters and brothers of Jesus, and we can shine his light out into the world without fear.

Gordon Fath



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.

An advertisement for 'The Shed' featuring a hand pointing towards the text and a bicycle in the background. The background is a wooden wall with a door and a window.

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

Highfield Friendship Group

We approach our first outing (as against a meal out), this week as I write. I have booked Afternoon Tea on board The Floating Grace in Liverpool for our party. This sets off from Albert Dock and explores Liverpool docks for two hours before returning to base. We are all very much looking forward to the trip. Fortunately for our less sprightly members, which includes myself, our coach will drop us off at the side of the boat and pick us up ditto.

Whilst there is of course quite a lot to see in the immediate area of the Albert Dock, not least being Lewis' s and Liverpool One across the road, we have decided to avoid as much walking as possible by arranging our return trip for 3.00pm. For the record our coach on this occasion is being paid for by The Brighter Borough Fund, through our local Councilor' s, to whom we are duly grateful. The Boat trip and Afternoon Tea is paid out of our members weekly subs. So, whilst it is their money, it actually feels like a free 'do' .

We continue to meet on Wednesdays at 2.00 pm in the Parish Hall, or as I should now say, The Community Club. However, old habits die hard. We still have an average of 18 -20 members weekly and enjoy chats and the occasional Quiz from Brian. He says that they are so easy that he is sometimes embarrassed to ask the questions. His definition of easy however, does not necessarily align with mine. We continue to seek additions to our membership of course. Why not try it? If you don' t like it don' t pay us a second visit. It won' t cost you anything to try it after all.

We continue to seek further places of interest to travel to, which does not involve excessive walking. I think another visit to Knowsley Safari Park is very likely to be on the agenda in the coming months.

Finally, one unusual request recently came my way. I received a 'phone call from a friendly lady at St. James' Church, asking if I would speak to their Ladies Group meeting in May. She said that she always read the articles I placed in the Church Magazine and felt that I could be an interesting Speaker. Well I would truly hate to disappoint so I said yes. During my working career it was quite common for me to address large audiences, but that was work! It is not the speaking to audiences which phases me, I' m used to that. But being 'interesting' is a whole new ball game to me.

Well we will see, but I don' t expect a return invitation!

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

St Matthew' s Guides

We finished off some of our meetings for this term concentrating on Mother' s Day activities. The girls decorated small hoops for a Mother' s Day gift and the following week Mrs Peacock from Blossoms Room flowers visited and made a floral gift for the girls to give to Mums. They were beautiful and really appreciated by all the Mums. A big thank you to Mrs Peacock for her time with the girls.

Our last evening was a games night and due to the lighter nights, we started with a game of rounders outside on the field.

The Guiders



St Matthew' s Boys Brigade

We recently welcomed five-year-old Harvey Nolan to our **Anchor Boys** section. He' s settled in well with the officer' s and boys. If anyone has a boy of similar age, please get in touch. Harvey would like some 'playmates' on Wednesday evenings, 5.30pm to 6.45pm. Places are also available for boys for the other sections. If you are interested, please phone me on **07759564128** or **01942 218465**.

Junior Section boys are learning spiritual and parables and enjoying games with the help of Mrs. Brown. **Company Section** boys have been involved in photography and cooking. The boys are getting better with their cooking and a big thankyou to Matthew and Christopher' s mother for supplying the food, especially at short notice! lol. As part of their community badge, the boys have also been helping in the graveyard on Saturday morning. They especially enjoyed the 'bacon butties' at the end!



Marian and myself helped at the Spring Fayre on Saturday 29th March. It was good to talk to officers from Rainbow' s, Brownie' s and Guides, and members of the parish and general public. Hopefully the church will start to be used more from now on.

By the time the Parish magazine is published, Easter will have come and gone. We hope you all had a good time and received plenty of Easter eggs from the Easter Bunny!

Jim Harrison

St. Matthew' s Rainbows

After February half term, we started back celebrating Thinking Day with Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from across our Division, Wigan West, in our Community Hall. It was hectic but very enjoyable remembering our founders Robert and Olave Baden Powell and thinking about girls in Guiding all over the world.



On 3 March we resumed our activities by learning something about Saint David, patron Saint of Wales. The Rainbows tried on some items of Welsh costume worn by girls on St. David' s Day (March 1st), learned a few words in Welsh and coloured in some St. David' s Day bookmarks. As it was Shrove Tuesday the following day, we finished the evening enjoying pancakes.

Badge work involved the girls thinking back to their first meeting at Rainbows and the emotions they may have felt. They thought about ways they could welcome new girls and make them feel at ease by drawing around their foot, cutting out the drawing and decorating it with words and pictures. These footprints will be used to make a welcome path for the next girl who would like to join. With the approach of Mothering Sunday, the Rainbows cut out and decorated hearts with gems using air dry clay. Unfortunately, some fell off when the clay dried but nevertheless, I hope you were pleased with their effort!!

Our last meeting was Amara' s Pot of Gold pyjama party where we played games, and the Rainbows took home cute Easter Bunny pots along with their Easter eggs. We hope they enjoyed the surprise concealed in their pot! Georgia has been unable to attend Rainbows this last half term, but the Rainbows will be delighted to see her return after the Easter break on Monday 28 April. **Gillian & Lesley**

14th Wigan Town Brownies

We have been busy over the last few weeks, learning new crafting skills to stitch baskets for Mothering Sunday. Then we did decoupage to decorate bunnies and beds to put them in, as well as egg themed games before the Easter break.



On Palm Sunday Grace and Betsie helped to give out the Palm crosses and Amelia read part of the lesson; it was lovely to have them with us.

This month we were overwhelmed to receive a very generous donation, along with the other uniformed organizations, from Mrs Lavin in memory of her husband Bernard. It was lovely of her to think of us, and we will make sure we use it wisely for the benefit of the girls.

The Brownie Guiders

Highfield Cricket Club

At the time of writing, the senior and junior teams are just days away from their first games of the season, with the ground looking in great condition due to the hard work of the grounds team throughout the winter. But unexpectedly we have a late change in the first team captaincy. Ryan Hargreaves is the new elected captain of Highfield first team for the imminent season, succeeding Mike Farrell who has decided to step down. Ryan has played at Highfield from being in our under 9s through all the age groups and has been an established first team player since his teenage years.

Ryan said: "I'm really proud to be given the opportunity to be club captain for this season. It's of course sad to see Mike deciding not to continue this year but everyone totally understands his reasoning, an absolute legend of the club and I'm sure everyone wishes him well. Cannot wait to get going with the lads this season and I am sure we can make it a successful and exciting one...see you all down at Billinge Road soon" Mike Farrell said: "After playing for Highfield since the age of eight, I have decided to stand down as captain and spend more time with my family this summer. I feel the time is right. I will always support the club and wish Ryan all the success for the upcoming season."

With Mike Farrell's decision to stand down from the captaincy and take a break from cricket, possibly permanently, it's a

good time to reflect on Mike's impact on Highfield CC.

His remarkable numbers as a batsman, achievements as a captain and fielding prowess with or without the gloves, make him an all-time great player for the club. Mike has made over 500 appearances for the club scoring over 14,000 runs for Highfield, mostly in the first team at the top end of the order. Alongside over 300 catches and around 50 stumpings for the club, it might surprise some that he has also claimed 65 wickets with a best match haul of 6 for 46!! Mike started playing for Highfield's junior teams around 1990 and was the overall Junior Player of the season in 1999 aged 17. He had already made his Highfield senior debut at the age of just 12 for the 3rd team in 1994, and was in the first team within 3 years, then captain by 2007. Supported by the club, he also played out in Australia in the winter of 2005.

Amongst his 15 hundred's for Highfield, two have come on the last games of the season, both as captain, helping Highfield secure promotion to the Premier League. In 2009, he scored a fabulous 141 against St Helens in the final game of the season to help secure the win and promotion to the Premier League for the very first time in the club's history. And then for a second time in 2014, scoring 107 away against Colwyn Bay on the last day of that season, as Highfield returned to the top flight in another nail biter. Mike also spent four

seasons playing for a powerful Bootle team between 2016-2019 where he enjoyed a Premier League win and cup success in the Ray Digman and Liverpool Echo trophy, before returning to Billinge Road in 2020. As captain Mike helped secure the first teams first silverware for decades as they lifted the Ray Tyler in 2023, repeating the success last season. Reflecting his popularity amongst his teammates and of course his playing ability, Mike has won the coveted Players Player of the Year award on four occasions. Mike was deservedly awarded Honorary Life Membership of the club in 2015.

Finally, this month, we are just letting you know that Highfield Cricket Club is now registered with easy fundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use easy fundraising to shop with them - at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easy fundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/highfield-cricket-club-wigan/>

Gary Speakman

ST JAMES LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Gary Humphry was our guest at the March meeting, and what a lovely man!

He spoke about his life before he came to Wigan with Rev Fran, and his journey to faith. Fran accompanied him, and I hope they don't mind me saying, the love they share just shone out.

Unfortunately, Fran isn't well at the moment, and we all wish her well and a speedy recovery.

This month's meeting (April) we are crafting something for Easter.

Jean Hogan is going to help us do a spring flower table decoration. I know everyone will enjoy this after the success of the ones we did at Christmas. We are also having a raffle, to be organised by Pat and Dorothy. Thank you, ladies!

Lorraine will sadly be missing on this day, but she is excused as she has a milestone birthday and will be celebrating with her family.

Birthday wishes too to Jean Currey who has a birthday on the 18th.

The next meeting is 15 May, and we have Dave Whitter from St Matthew's kindly giving his time to speak to us. He writes in the magazine about their own Friendship Group, although I have left the subject of his talk up to him.

7pm St Clements Court lounge, Worsley Mesnes Drive, All welcome, male or female. Hopefully see you there.

Margaret xx 07906 615501

May 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 May

1 **Thursday**
10.30 Holy Communion
4 **Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
7 **Wednesday**
18.00 Evening Prayer
11 **Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Parade Service
14 **Wednesday**
18.00 Evening Prayer
15 **Thursday**
11.45 Prayers
18 **Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Holy Communion
12.30 Baptisms
21 **Wednesday**
18.00 Evening Prayer
25 **Sunday**
9.00 BCP Communion
10.30 Service of the Word
30 **Wednesday**
18.00 Evening Prayer

St James with St Thomas May

4 **Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
11 **Sunday**
10.30 Baptisms
18 **Sunday**
10.30 All Age Holy Communion
25 **Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
18.30 Open Table

St Paul's May

4 **Sunday**
9.00 Holy Communion
10.30 Baptisms
11 **Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
14 **Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
18 **Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
21 **Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
25 **Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
28 **Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion

Lighthouse May

4 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship
11 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Communion
18 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship
25 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship

ALL SERVICE IN ST JAMES' SCHOOL

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

WiganWestHub 

Little Stars ^{Toddler Group} Stars

Free Play, Snacks, Story Time & Singing!

Little Stars Toddler Group

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

MONDAYS 9:30am - 11am

Cost is only £1.50 for
ONE adult & child

(Additional child is 50p)

From Birth to
School Age Children!



All Welcome!

Service of the Word with Brunch

This is proving to be popular, and we will have brunch again on Sunday 4 May following our Service of the Word.

80th Anniversary of VE Day Thursday 8th May 12 noon

St James Centre will be hosting a special celebration for this anniversary. The celebration will start at 12 noon when there will be a Service of Commemoration followed by a buffet lunch and then a war time sing along. The event will be free and as several of our groups will join together for this and anyone from the local community is welcome to come and join us. Please feel free to dress in 1940's style or red, white and blue or simply come as you are, you will be made most welcome. There will also be lots of cuppa's and a free raffle. I would like to thank Councillor Mary Callaghan for her support to make this event happen.

Faith Café

Our wonderful Faith Café will be transferring its date on Saturday 10 May to Thursday 8 May from 12 noon to join in with the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The Faith Café will be back to its normal

Lifelines Café

Lifelines Café will meet in St James Centre on Thursday 8 May at 12 noon. Please note change of day and date as we will meet to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. 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.

Bereavement Support

Our bereavement support group will meet in St James church on Thursday 8 May from 12 noon to join with the 80th Anniversary VE Day celebrations and again on Thursday 22 May at the normal time of 1pm. The change of day is due to the Bank Holiday falling on Monday 26 May. 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

Deeper Discipleship will meet on Sunday 18 May in St James Centre at 6pm. If you haven't been before you are most welcome to attend as this is not a course which requires you to be here every month.

Lifelines Choir

The choir will meet on Monday 12 May at 1pm. We will only have the one meeting this month because of the Bank Holiday. 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

Open Table

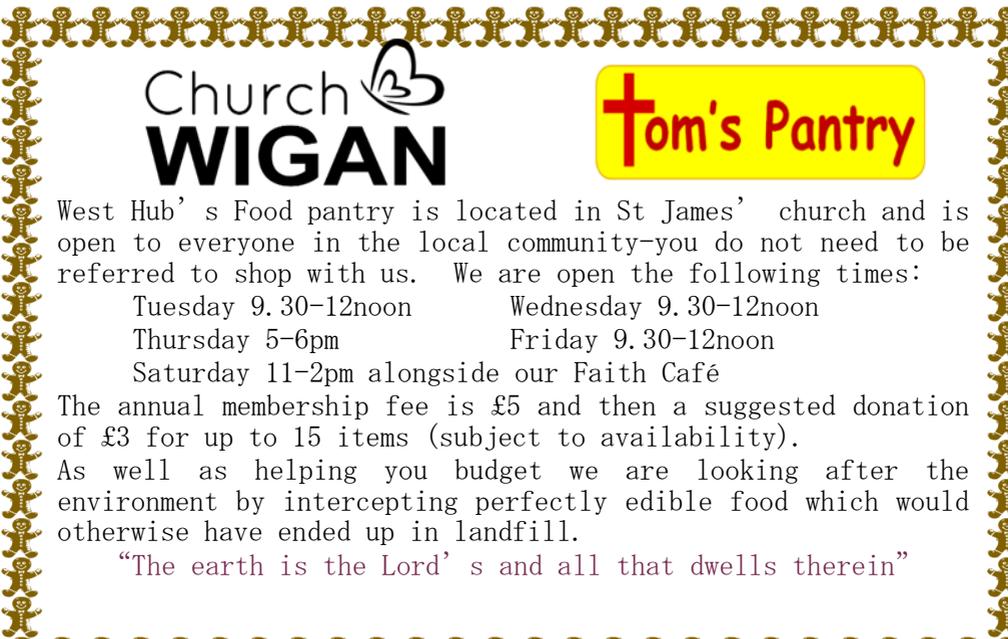
Open Table Holy Communion will be at St James with St Thomas Church on Sunday 25 May at 6pm. We meet a 6pm for a brew and chat and a 6.30pm start, and yes there are Christian Communities which genuinely welcome and affirm LGBTQIA+ people. You are welcome to

Spring Fayre at St Matthew' s - 29 March

Thank you to all the people who gave up their time to hold a stall at the Spring Fayre, to the people who spent their hard-earned money and to the people who provided donations, to help raise the wonderful amount of £1211.03 for Church Funds. Anne, Barbara, and Chris W. (The ABC girls!) The next event will be a Craft Fayre on Saturday 5.

Altar Flowers -
St. Matthew' s

4 May - H&G Stockley
11 May - Mrs S Goodwin
18 May - Mr M Gregory
25 May - Miss M McCourty



Church 
WIGAN

Tom's Pantry

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

Tuesday 9.30-12noon Wednesday 9.30-12noon

Thursday 5-6pm Friday 9.30-12noon

Saturday 11-2pm alongside our Faith Café

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

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

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

Winstanley Art Group comes to St. Matthew's

I began painting a long time ago. I always loved to draw and paint and so it was wonderful to win a prize at school when my teacher entered my painting of the seaside into a competition aged 10! I was well and truly hooked. At secondary school I excelled in art both drawing, painting, photography, and screen printing. When I went to college, I did a foundation type course in my first year but then had to decide if I would be able to get a job in the teaching profession in Art or RE. There was a shortage of RE teachers, so I opted for that. I had to start earning asap. Needless to say, all my classrooms were very colourful with lots of art in religion and children's work too! Very noticeable in large comprehensive schools!

I had a family, and I always encouraged creativity in both of my children, but I didn't really do much myself until I retired in 2011. Then the floodgates opened. I learned a variety of techniques from the U3A group I attended for a while. Particularly from Bill Ingham who was patient and willing to help. I'll always be grateful to him for his guidance. Then I joined a lovely art group on a Tuesday evening 7-9pm in Winstanley and have been with them ever since.

Now every Tuesday at 12.30pm to 2.30pm at St Matthews you're welcome to come along and paint with us. If you haven't painted before never fear, we'll give you a helping hand. As a novice I'll do a little exercise with you making a card with a complete painting of a flower inside. I show you some tricks of the trade and explain what happens with the paper and the water. Simple!

All the artwork on display has been painted by members of the Winstanley Art group. We're very keen to learn and we bring our own ideas and compositions to the table. All in all, we do very well. We're very welcoming and keen to learn. They also offer excellent support and encouragement with plenty of heart-warming banter. Look at some of the excellent work they have done.

If you want to give it a try, come along to our first meeting in the church. We start on Tuesday 8th of April at 12.30 to 2.30pm. there's a drink, a chat, and a new skill to learn. If you're interested, then give me a call on 01942228433 or email me at gloriadgreen@hotmail.com. I look forward to seeing you.

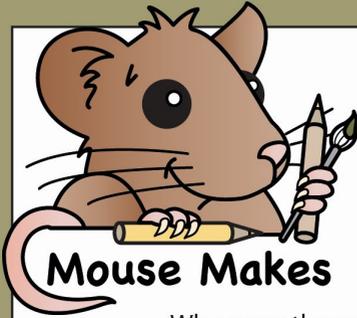


Winstanley Art Club

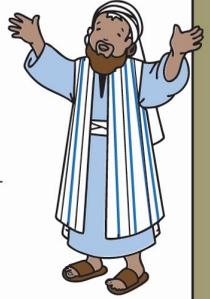
Is starting at St. Matthews! Tuesday 8th April at 12.30 -2.30pm. Cost is £2 which includes a drink and a friendly chat with some seasoned artists. Just call Gloria Green if you want to give it a try on 01942228433 or pop in and look for yourself. We can help to start you off.



We look forward to seeing you



MIRACLES OF PETER



At which temple gate
did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10

Who were the man and wife
who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11

People carried the sick into
the streets so that when Peter
came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

How long had Aeneas
been paralysed for?

----- years

Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?
in the -----

Acts 9:36-42



"And the word
of God
continued to
increase,
and the number
of the disciples
multiplied
greatly."
Acts 6:7

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

After Jesus
ascended into
heaven, the
Holy Spirit
came upon
the Apostles
and Peter was
able to perform
many miracles
in Jesus' name.
**See the book
of ACTS**



PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE

Find the words from the questions too!

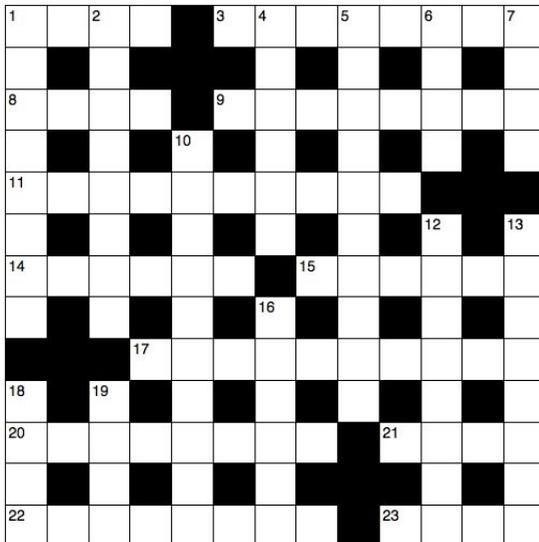
May25© deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
 9 'My God, my God, why have you - me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like - ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
 15 Ministers of religion (6)
 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " - here and keep watch" ' (Mark 14:34) (4)

Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
 6 'I am God, and there is none - me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
 7 'And how can they preach unless they are - ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5, 3)
 16 'About midnight the sailors - they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30-31) (4)
 19 'According to your great compassion - out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1)



Flight
 Hiding
 Triumph
 Christology
 Alexandria
 Christology

This year is the 1700 anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Athanasius is the theologian behind that creed, and his feast day falls on 2 May.

Word Search

Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, and entered the ministry. He was 29 years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first great ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325. There he saw the Council debate the Person of Christ. How was He the Son of God and also Man? Did He really exist before He was born? If we worship Him, does that mean that we are worshipping two Gods?

When the heresy of Arius, which taught that Christ was not divine, and not eternal, later threatened the church, Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding.

Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New

Testament Christology over every form of reductionism (lessening of the Person of Christ).

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

Athanasius Begotten
 Nicene God
 Creed From
 Theologian Light
 Egypt True
 Council One
 Bishop Substance
 Debate Devotion
 Christ Scholar-
 Person ship
 Worship Church
 Divine State
 Eternal Exiled

St Paul's Church & Community Centre

St Paul's Avenue, WN3 5LH

Saturday 17 May at 7.30pm

Wigan Ukelele Band

Tickets **£10** from Arthur
 Call 01942 223351 or email
 aandkcooper@gmail.com
 or pay on the night.



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 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



Baptisms

Ava Grace Hamill *St Paul' s*
 Emilia Lucy Hamill *St Paul' s*
 Darcie Belshaw *St Matthew' s*
 Otilie Sophia Dawber *St Matthew' s*
 Katie Carol Margaret Osborne *St Matthew' s*

Burials and Funerals

St James with St Thomas

11/3/25 Elaine Margaret Dean
 aged 65

St Matthew' s

Trevor Eaves aged 83
 Laura Marie Murray aged 39
 Ann Harrington aged 89

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

Loving birthday memories of a very dear mum, Grandma & Grandma
From Joan, Denis & family

Loving birthday memories. of a dear Aunt. Jane Howarth.

From Ethel Greenall

In lieu of altar flowers and in loving memory of Ethel Hall (d. 2 May). A wonderful Mum, Grandma & Gt Grandma. Sorely missed

From Maureen, Eric and all her family

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

N. B. *If you have occasion to make out a cheque to the parish, please make it payable to **Wigan West PCC.** Cheques made out to the old parishes will soon no*

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

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

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

Church Wigan Team Rector Revd Neil Cook neil.cook@churchwigan.org

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:

Barbara Poyntz 07845 947 573

Magazine Editors

June Gibson 01942 703096

jngibson@hotmail.co.uk

Paul Nolan 01942 804810

pnolan1972@yahoo.co.uk

Printing:

Sam Rusling sam@jesandsam.com

Distribution:

John Dawson &

Lyn Starkie 01942 494715

St James’ with St Thomas’

Distinctive Deacon

Alison Brown 01942 740777

Assistant Wardens

Carol Simm

Tracey Mathioudakis 07377467678
tracymathioudakis7@gmail.com

Jo Baines 07956 030669

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

Baptism Team

Margaret Baxendale 07906 615501

Joyce Matthews 07733 108040.

Lifelines *St James’ Centre*

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 April 2025

St Matthew's

Assistant Wardens

Andrea Wood 07734 447699

Sheila Albers

Elizabeth Gaskell

Reader *Colin Hesketh* 07712 431105

Organist *Sue Gordon* 01942 214955

Deputy Organist

Colin Hesketh 07712 431105

Bereavement Support

Iain Matthewson 07595 898737

Bowling Club

Keith Harris 01942 211518

Choir *Sue Gordon* 01942 214955

Church Fellowship

Matthew Jones 07930 867209

Cuppa & Chat

Barbara Jenks 01942 213101

Friendship Group

Dave Whitter 07836330324

Boys Brigade

Jim Harrison 01942 218465

Guides:

Rainbows

Jennifer Halliwell 01257 433894

Or 07808811490

Gill Marsh 01942 207723

Brownies

Joanne Tabener/Elizabeth Gaskell

14thwigtownbrownies@gmail.com

Guides

Helen Albers 07960 920587

Primary School Headteacher

Mrs A Barron 01942 747818

St Paul's

Assistant Wardens

Cliff Unsworth 01942 933772

Maureen Gower 01942 234410

Pam Wilkinson 01942 716668

Geoff Birch 01942 227036

Reader Emeritus *Arthur Hubbard*
01942 321977

Reader *Gordon Fath* 01942 621173

Flowers *Pam Wilkinson* 01942 716668

Mother's Union

Anne Hubbard 01942 321977

Sunday School

Lucy Haigh 07900 252 361

Craft Workshop

Gillian Greenwood 01942 825670

Friends Together

Lynn Conroy 01942202249

Linda Berry 01942 492521

House Groups

Anne & Arthur Hubbard 01942 321977

Mike & Gill Greenwood 01942 825670

Primary School Head of School

Mr A Rigby 01942 243068

Need to book a hall?

St Matthew's Church Hall:

Matthew Jones 07930 867209

St James Centre:

Alison Brown 01942 740777

St Paul's Church Hall:

Darren Speakman 07456 840803

BAPTISMS If you wish to enquire about Baptism please attend a 10.30am service at any of our churches and ask to speak to someone from the Baptism Team afterwards.

WEDDINGS *Gordon Fath*: wedding.west@churchwigan.org

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

Wardens Corner



Hello again, by the time you read this Easter will be over and we'll be enjoying long days, hopefully of sunshine. We'll also be getting ready for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which usually causes groans when it is announced as it sounds dry and boring. There are some routine administrative tasks which have to be done but the most important part of it is that we can look back on 2024 and celebrate what has happened and look forward to the next 12 months and work out how we can build on it.

Over the last few months Martin and I have been encouraging people to come forward and take an active role in the many activities going on in our parish.

We currently need help with :-

Audio visuals for our church services,

Musicians and singers

Secretarial work to help with the smooth running of parish affairs, to keep lines of communication open.

Running the community cafés

Helping with refreshments at events taking place in our church buildings

Routine cleaning and simple maintenance

We're living in a period of great change all around us, which can be scary, but also can be exciting and refreshing.

We've made a great start in Wigan West and we want to keep going and continue to be able to welcome more and more people to meet

UKRAINE STILL NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

Please pray for Ukraine.

Can you help with our Ukraine appeal?

Please donate cash or goods.

Call Vitalii on 07476 778083 to arrange delivery or collection.