

Wigan West



PARISH MAGAZINE

**I HAVE COME
THAT THEY MAY
HAVE LIFE
AND HAVE IT
TO THE FULL**

John 10: 10

Church 
WIGAN

June 2021

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

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

Even during lockdown there's always lots going on. 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 of when we'll be gathering in person again.

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St Matthews

June

- 6 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Holy Communion
- 13 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Service of the Word
- 20 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Baptisms
- 27 Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Service of the Word

Services

St James with St Thomas

June

- 6 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
- 13 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
- 20 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 27 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion

St Pauls

June

- 2 Wednesday**
10.30 Service of the Word
- 6 Sunday**
10.30 Morning Worship +Baptism
- 9 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 13 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 16 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 20 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
- 23 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 27 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
- 30 Wednesday**
10.30 Holy Communion

In this period you will need to book seats, as seating is restricted. Please ring St Matthews 07734447699 westhubbooking@gmail.com St Pauls 07900252361 or 07712043202 bookingstpauls20@gmail.com St James 07806798030 Church Admin stjstpwigan@gmail.com Bookings will be open each Monday.

9.30am All Age service Live on

Facebook Live

Join us every Sunday live on West Hub Facebook page for half an hour of worship whatever your age. Led by one of our families in West Hub. We pray together, reflect on the Bible reading, craft activities and weekly challenges. A great opportunity to join together online whatever your age is. Watch it live or after it has streamed live.

Every Sunday we gather on Zoom for an 2pm service. A service of the word, where there is a hymn, Bible readings, reflection and prayers. A great opportunity to join together in worship particularly if you are unable to join in our buildings this a great opportunity to gather together a Church family in the Parish of West Wigan. To join email Mark at hubleader.west@churchwigan.org and each week you will receive a Zoom Link for the service.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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

You Tube Search West Hub and subscribe to our channel. Church Wigan live also post the weekly services on their youtube channel ,check out Church Wigan

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

 WiganWestHub

Dear Friends

As you read this we shall all be looking towards June the 21st, as I write this the nation is getting ready for 17th May, we are looking forward to having grandparents come down from Sunderland to stay, who we have not been together with since August 2020 or stayed together overnight since 2019, then our long-awaited visit to Cornwall where we have not been there since 2018, an uncle seeing Imogen only for the 2nd time in her three years. We are all getting excited.



As things open up and we begin this new normal, there is still a lot of unknowns, and as we hear the pain and deaths in South America and India, we know Covid is not gone and there is still so much risk. This year has been tough and challenging but also seen so much fruit grow.

We have seen people come to know Jesus, people who would have never walked into any of our buildings but through meeting online or food packages they encountered Jesus and now connecting to one of our worship communities, now that makes my heart sing for joy. As one pastor says there is a party in heaven whenever someone says yes to Jesus.

Hold that picture; that is the picture we need to hold in the next 12 months. We have a community who are hungry, hungry to be together, hungry for hope, hungry for something more in their lives. We know that hunger is fulfilled by Jesus. The promise of a life with Jesus is beyond words and changes your life.

As we begin to join together some things will restart, while others may not return, there are so many opportunities to do something new and respond to the need in our community. Here in the Parish, we have so many opportunities from many worship communities gathering on Sundays and midweek to places of gathering. Over the next few months, we shall be explaining the role of the CIC at St Matthew's Parish Hall this is such an exciting missional opportunity, meeting for a drink, a group, a cricket match. To serve as a volunteer, to gather. It is even better that this is a place for the whole Parish. I am looking forward to being there over the summer months watching a possible England win at the euros.

There are so many places across the Parish we shall gather, go to and serve at. Yet here is our challenge for each one of us, to be a person of Good News. Jesus gives us a promise and hope of what is to come. This is the perfect moment to share how Jesus has transformed our lives.

To finish I want to give you two pictures. Firstly at 37, I have decided to see if I can still skate like I sort of could at 14, this is a risk and most likely will end up being given to one of our kids. But deep down I would love to challenge my self and have a go on a half-pipe, this could result in a broken leg. But I have always liked to take some risks.

The other picture I want to share with you is this: Imagine if we took a risk with our faith. To share your faith with that friend? To invite that person to a gathering? To up your giving? To step into serving in a new ministry? I believe here in Wigan we are on the edge of one of the biggest harvests of people coming to know Jesus. The good news it is not up to me or Fran, it is up to you.

Now the bad news if we are not willing to take a risk, to step up in the next 20 years there will not be a Church here in Wigan West, there will be very few in the Liverpool diocese. To enable us to see this

harvest we need to be ready. Are you ready to take that step?

I am excited about this next year and all the missional opportunities we have across our Parish. Once again I will quote our Bishops who have challenged us to:

“Invite one friend” - Who are you going to invite?

As we step out we shall transform the town into our Parish.

What will you do?

God Bless **Mark**



RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

Parish of Wigan West - Deanery of Wigan

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the above parish held on 10th May

The following were elected as **Churchwardens:**

Name **Martin Gaskell** Name **Ann Birch**

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Deanery Synod:**

Name **Christaine Cook** Name **Angela Matthewson (Diocesan Synod)**

Name **Carole Simm** Name **Iain Matthewson (Diocesan Synod)**

Name **Gordon James** Name **Daniel Willis**

Two Vacant spaces

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council:**

Name **Cliff Unsworth** Name **Andrew Bond**

Name **Roger Clarke** Name **Louise Ashcroft**

Name **Martin Wood** Name **Shelia Albers**

Name **Kathleen Moran** Name **Jes Rusling**

Name **Pam Wilkinson** Name **Kath Smith**

Name **Alison Jackson** Name **Emma Farley**

Non PCC Member: **Jeff McCann Treasurer**

We are pleased to Welcome Louise and Daniel onto our PCC and give thanks to Lorraine Price who has stepped down from the PCC. Please do prayer for our wardens and PCC as they lead us in the coming year.

I would like to give you an update on the recent changes to the Gideons Association on behalf of our Wigan branch. HOPEfully you will already be aware that there is a network of Christian folk, throughout the UK, who offer copies of the Bible, the New Testament and Gospel magazines in many areas of public life, as well as through personal witnessing !

By presenting Scriptures to Hotels, Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities, Hospitals, Prisons, Care and Residential Homes – as well as a range OF “Badged” Testaments for Uniformed Organisations, Youth and Community Groups – we seek to share the GOOD NEWS. To give everyone the opportunity to read the WORD of GOD for themselves, where we can find HOPE, comfort, guidance and salvation, that we know the Bible can give us. *Unfortunately, during 2020, we have been extremely restricted in this work.*

As I love to share any Good News with our FRIENDS and anyone I contact, you may be pleased to learn that recent changes in the criteria for the National Association have opened the membership to many more people. If you are a Christian believer, in good standing of an evangelical protestant church or assembly; you might consider joining the Wigan branch! We also have an extensive number of faithful and prayerful FRIENDS within our combined churches; BUT we would encourage more folk to join and support us – as you can. IF you need any of our LARGE print New Testaments – for yourself – or someone you know. Please contact:– Geoff. Birch on 227036

Mob. 0779 1265101 - *I am the current Bible Secretary.*



Prayers for Fran:

On Saturday 12th June Fran is going to be priested at Liverpool Cathedral. This will be restricted seats but we hope to share the services recording on our social media. Please pray for Fran and Gary as Fran prepares for next step of ministry.

Once we can gather in big numbers we plan to celebrate her new ministry. I can even smell that BBQ....

Mark





THE DEANERY

Church of England High School and Sixth Form College

News from The Deanery Church of England High School

As is always the case, it is very busy at school at the moment. As I write, the Covid rules are still restricting much of what we can do, but it is great to see many aspects of school life restarting, such as sports practices and music. We have also provisionally planned our ski trip to the USA and it sold out in days! Year 11 and Year 13 continue to work very hard on the tests that will help their teachers decide their GCSE and A-Level grades this year – they will leave us on May 28 and we are praying for them as they look to the future, whether that be in our sixth form, in college, at university or in work.

Deanery people

This month can I introduce one of my Deputy Headteachers, Mrs Leanne Turner. Mrs Turner is responsible for pastoral care, behaviour and attendance. She is also responsible for transition from primary to secondary school, so many parents and children might have seen her visiting their school or on Open Evenings. Mrs Turner also teaches RE. She is a keen supporter of Everton FC and, when not spending time with her family, enjoys spending time with her new German Shepherd puppy, Zeus!



Find out more

If you would like to find out more about The Deanery, please take a look at our website and social media pages:

www.deanery.wigan.sch.uk

Twitter: @deaneryhigh

FB: /TheDeanery

Martin Wood
Headteacher

Thank you

On behalf of Wigan West Parish, we would like to thank Jill Roberts for all her hard work over the last 18 months and to wish her well in her new job.
Thank you Jill!

The Holy Trinity

On 30th May, we celebrated Trinity Sunday. According to our calendar, this is one of the major festivals of the Church's year. It doesn't look much like it, does it? Nobody jumps out of bed in the morning excited, saying, "Hey, Happy Trinity Sunday!"

There is no missing Christmas in this country. It is at least as much a secular festival as a religious one. And Easter still has its place, with holidays on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Pentecost/Whit Sunday has taken a bit of a dive since the spring bank holiday was separated from it 50 years ago, but at least we have an idea of what it is about – the sending of the Holy Spirit on the new Christian Church.

Trinity Sunday is unique in that it celebrates not an event, or a saint, but a doctrine. The doctrine that God is both One and Three. One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Isn't that a bit abstract? The stuff of musty old books in vicarage studies? Why would this doctrine matter, against the practical business of living life in a godly way, or of bringing people to faith in Jesus?

You will not be surprised to hear that I think it does matter.

The Church has generally been cautious in framing abstract notions about the nature of God. That is wise. We are finite creatures and we can never fully understand, "comprehend" as one of the ancient creeds puts it, the nature of God. God's thoughts are not as our thoughts. But sometimes a teaching arises in the Church that, after careful prayer and thought, the Church decides is not the authentic gospel of Jesus Christ. And so doctrine develops. I want to look at the doctrine of the Holy Trinity in that way. What would the alternatives be?

1) What if the Father were not God?

This may seem absurd. If you believe in God, then surely the one thing which you must believe is that God the Father, maker of heaven and earth, is God? But there was a man, Marcion, who taught that God the Father was not God. He could not believe that the Father of Jesus could be the maker of this flawed, physical universe. He thought that all that was good was spiritual, and that physical things could not be of spiritual importance. So, he thought that some being less than the real God had created the world, and that this lesser being was the God of the Old Testament.

This meant he had to get rid of the Old Testament, and then he had to clean out all the references to the Old Testament in the New Testament. He wasn't left with much – mainly mangled versions of some of Paul's letters.

The churches which followed Marcion's teaching lasted for centuries, and at times were a rival to mainstream Christianity. But they almost entirely died out in the end.

We teach that "God so loved the world, that he sent his Son." Not, "God so hated the world," or even, "God was so uninterested in the world." Matter, physical stuff, isn't bad. The good things of this world are the creation and the gift of a good God. As long as they don't replace God as our ultimate love and goal, then they are to be respected and enjoyed.

God's plan of salvation is to make all things new. The maker of heaven and earth and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ are one and the same.

2) What if Jesus were not God?

Jesus said, "I and the Father are one." [John 10, verse 30.] Thomas, having doubted Jesus's resurrection, when he comes face to face with the

risen Jesus, declares, “My Lord and my God.” [John 20, verse 28.] Yet Jesus prays to his Father, and obeys his Father.

How are we to understand the relationship between God the Father and Jesus? The early Church worked hard to make sense of this question. Was Jesus really divine, really God, or was he something very important, chosen specially of God, perhaps God’s greatest creation, but not quite God himself?



What would the cross mean if Jesus were not truly divine? It would mean that God had decided to take revenge for the sins of the world by torturing one innocent man, a being wholly other than himself, to death. That’s not mercy, it’s injustice. What we actually believe is that, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.” [2 Corinthians 5, verse 19.] Jesus was and is the eternal Word of the Father in human form. Truly and fully human and truly and fully divine. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” [John 1, verse 14.]

3) What if the Holy Spirit were not God?

It is easy to think of the Holy Spirit as an influence from God, an energy sent by God to empower us. There is some truth in that picture, but it isn’t enough. It would mean that, after Jesus had returned to the Father, God was no longer immediately active in this world, that – after this last year I am tempted to say – that he is communicating with us by Zoom rather than in person!

But if God himself is present in his world, and especially in his Church, then this makes a difference. Remember what St Paul said: “Your

body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.” All that we do, we do not only under the watch of God, but in the presence of God. God is not just Big Brother, monitoring us from afar. He is with us and beside us, always willing to help us in our pilgrimage here on earth.

This is our faith

So, why would we expect to be able to understand the being of God? Why would we expect to find God fully explicable in human terms? He is altogether greater than us. But he allows us glimpses of himself, and especially we see him in the person of Jesus. The Bible, and the experience of the Church down the ages lead us to affirm, “This is our faith: we believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” Amen.

Gordon James

Donations to the Food Outlet

Due to the continuing generosity of a number of our congregation at St. Matthew’s we have been able to continue to donate money on a monthly basis to The Food Outlet. In fact, in the past 18 months since I began the scheme you have donated a total of £6,000 towards helping to feed the less fortunate amongst us, which is something to be proud of.

Considering that we have been in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic for a considerable portion of that time, and that church has been closed for lengthy periods and that it was at services that most of you gave me your donations, it is a remarkable achievement!

However, Church has now re-opened and perhaps those who have been unable to continue their donations could consider re-starting them.

I will ensure that the small brown envelopes re-appear at the back of church for you to use.

Please do not feel that it is necessary to make the payments that you have missed, unless, of course you feel the need to do so. Why don’t we have a fresh start from this month?

Dave Whitter

Open The Book -

A couple of years ago, Dawn made an appeal in St. Paul's church, for some volunteers to support an initiative called Open The Book.

Around a dozen or so of us expressed some interest and attended her first

introductory session at St. James church, where she outlined the basic format and objectives of the programme.

Those who know me will already realise, and I'm prepared to accept, that I'm a little intolerant of things that waste time, or don't deliver. Perhaps it's a combination of my engineering and scientific training and a life in industry but, for me, any investment in time and resource has to have a tangible return.

Many would disagree with me and think I'm too demanding, too practical, but that's who I am.

Basically, I ask a few simple questions -

Are the objectives clear?

Is the potential outcome worth the investment?

Can the results be measured and is there a tangible benefit?

Will the results be sustained?

Having listened to Dawn's initial presentation, I had some major reservations and posed to her several, what I thought were challenging, questions.

Having listened carefully to her response and explanations, I was clear in my own response, which was –
"I'm up for this"

My doubts had been removed and I can explain why, by answering my own questions, in my own way -

Are the objectives clear? Yes, to introduce our local schoolchildren to the Bible as the true record of the Living God, with whom we can all have a close, loving relationship.

Is the outcome worth the investment? Yes, because the investment is merely one of time and commitment, but the potential outcome is literally 'Life Changing'.

Can the results be measured and is there a tangible benefit? Yes, we can see it in the children's faces and, to be a little selfish, it gives us great satisfaction. Perhaps we get as much out of it as they do, but that's no bad thing.

Will the results be sustained? Ask this in 10, 20, 30, or 40 years. This isn't a rhetorical, but a real question, because that is what the investment demands.

To explain why I can be so confident, I need to go back in time some 70 years or so, and slowly wind forward, from infancy, through childhood and adolescence and finally into and through adulthood.

Hidden in the depths of mind and memory were a series of long forgotten, apparently 'insignificant' experiences; but nothing is ever truly and completely forgotten, or insignificant. It just needs to be re-exposed.

I remember -

At school, Sunday school and church, I heard the stories of Adam and Eve, Moses, Joseph, Joshua, Elijah, Easter and Christmas. I'd no real idea what the stories meant, but I remember them.

When I was around 9 years old, a local church ran a tent outreach, which included a children's essay competition and I won a book entitled 'The loaves and fishes'. I read it, then hid it away, but I remember it.

When I was around 13 years old, an Anglican community, from the House of the Resurrection in Mirfield, Yorkshire ran an outreach. I went to their meetings and even spent a week in their community in Mirfield. I remember the services, the peace, the silences, all the brothers, their voices, their faces. Then I came home and got on with life, but I never forgot.

As I was preparing to get married, I was challenged, by my local vicar, to why I wanted to get married in church and if I believed in God. The answer to both question was obvious. To the former, that's just what people do; to the latter, **NO**. I did, however, say that, if there were a

A Labour of Love

real God, then one day, I would see Him and recognise Him.

And that, dear readers, is the point of my story.

When I was 46 years old, I went to a Christian dinner, which included a speaker. I have to confess that I can't remember a single word he said (and he did forgive me for this), but I did know that, completely unexpectedly, God had spoken to me. I couldn't stop thinking about it and I had to learn more. I read and read more. I attended meetings until at last, I made a lifelong commitment.

All the above experiences (and more) came flooding back. It all made sense, like the pieces of a jigsaw being put in place, by an invisible, guiding hand.

For the first time in my life, I could truly say; and truly believe –

"This is real, the stories are real, the people are real and the message is true. There is a God. There is a Saviour. Why did it take me so long to realise?"

Now, I need to clarify exactly why I could so confidently answer my own questions after Dawn's presentation.

Because I know we are sowing seeds, so that we, or perhaps other people can water, and nurture; so that, one day (hopefully sooner, or perhaps later) the Master will guide them to maturity.

At the risk of stating the blindingly obvious, the real excitement and fulfilment in gardening is harvesting the fruit or cutting the flowers but, without the sowing, there would be no reaping, no harvesting, no fulfilment.

Having forced you to read my condensed life story, I need to reveal the reason I've told it –

I want to appeal to any of you, who may be agonising over whether to get involved in some initiative, to rightfully challenge yourself to ask the same questions that I did, to find your own answers and to step out and take action.

I believe Mark is shortly to seek further volunteers, so that this Open the Book initiative can be rolled out to other schools. If you think it could be for you, seek me out and ask me more. If you want seek a wider view, I'm sure the other volunteers would be happy to help. You can find an outline of the initiative on the next page.

Basically, we take the Open the Book bible stories, produced by the Bible Society and go into local schools, to enact them, to bring them to life. During the lockdown, we've been making short videos, to be shown in the schools. We will probably never get Equity cards, but I have to confess it's fun.

Brian Marsh

PS

I probably won't be around in 40 years to answer question 4, but perhaps one of you will give me an answer when we meet in the presence of God and His angels.

Romans 10:14-15

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

OPEN THE BOOK - THE HEADLINES

Open the Book offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories told by a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies or acts of collective worship.



We follow a fixed script, but we're free to enhance the presentation, by dressing up for the parts and playing out the roles; even encouraging the children to join in, take on some roles, dress up and participate.

If you think you can't act, don't worry, neither can I. Who cares if you're having fun and getting the message across?

Each presentation takes around 10–15 minutes and can be incorporated into a wider school assembly, or can stand alone.

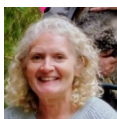
It is a three-year rolling programme with an additional, but optional year of material based on Christian values for schools.

We've been presenting to the Primary Schools of St. Paul's, St. Matthews and St. James.

So far, we have two teams from two churches –

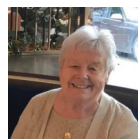
St. Paul's

Denise Oakley
Ann and Jeff Birch
Irene and Brian Marsh
Sue Callaghan



St. Matthews

Barbara Jenks
Andrea
Sheila Highton



We've been blessed to date by presenting, initially in the school assemblies but, during lockdown, by preparing short videos on –

The Creation
The story of Adam and Eve
The Crucifixion
The Nativity
The Story of Abraham
Joseph's Dreams
Joseph, from Prisoner to Ruler

For the remainder of this term, we will present –

The story of Moses
The Israelites' Escape from Egypt.

In September, we hope to be back, live, in the school assemblies, not only in the above schools, but hopefully to others across the West Hub.

We can't stretch ourselves too thinly, because we need to develop and maintain a relationship with both the pupils and the staff. **So, We need you**

If you're at least only tempted to join in, or just need to know more, please speak to one of us.



Church
WIGAN

Food Pantry
St Nathaniel

Thursday 13th May
9am to 12pm
We are opening our Doors!!!
Every Thursday thereafter.
Come along to join up!

Our Food Pantry is based on a membership basis.
Anyone can join!
Family or individual memberships.
You can join for one year for £5.
We have a charge of £3 per visit.
Each visit you can pick 20 items from the Food Pantry.
(With guidance from the Food Pantry volunteers.)
All our food is within the Use by Date but some of our food is beyond
its Best Before date which is an indication of quality but
Safe to consume.



Churchyard Maintenance Team



Once a month on Saturday mornings the team meets at St. Matthew's Churchyard to brush, rake, trim the hedges, weed kill and generally tidy up the graveyard. The Cricket Club generously provide machinery and volunteers to mow and trim the grass at no cost to church, for which we are most grateful.

At the moment the team consists of three people in their late 70s, three in their early 70s and a couple of 60+ year olds. Now it is not hard work, and people are only expected to work at their own level of comfort.

Could you not give a bit of your time to help? If you are willing please contact the organiser John Dawson on 07710 815538.

Dave Whitter

Like St Matthews St Pauls have a team that meet every Saturday and would love volunteers too, please contact Allan Conroy. St James have a small team to led by David Berry. So do contact them if you would like to help.

This is a great way to support our graveyards and we are looking into doing a number missional opportunities in our graveyards from giving out flowers and free brews to chat and pray with people. More information coming in the coming weeks. Do let Mark know if you might be interested in developing these opportunities in our graveyards to be a place to meet and share the good news of Jesus.

Hello!

Each week you can read along with the Bible passage, chat with your family about some of the questions and have a go at the prayer challenge!

Mark 3:31-35

Jesus' mum and brothers arrived outside where Jesus was.

The people inside told Jesus your mum and brothers are waiting outside for you.

Jesus looked around him and said "Here are my mothers and brothers!"

My true mothers and sisters and brothers and fathers are those who do what God wants.

6 JUN Week 1

Think of people you know who do what God wants. They may be at home, at school, friends, church or other groups you may go to.

Draw pictures of who Jesus says are your 'true' fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers. Show us your pictures on Wigan West Hub facebook page! We'd love to see them.

For fun, the next time it is their birthday why not get them a mum/dad/sister or brother card!



Prayer Idea

Week 2

13 JUN



challenge

Try growing tomatoes!

- 1 Cut open a tomato and let the seeds dry out on some tissue for 4 days.
- 2 Find either an empty egg box, or a used toilet roll and divide it into 3 mini rolls.
- 3 Fill either the egg carton or the mini toilet rolls with soil.
- 4 Make a mini hole in the soil, put a couple of seeds in and cover over with soil.
- 5 Keep the soil moist in a bright sunny window.
- 6 When they get to about 3 inches tall you can plant them in a larger outdoor pot!

Mark 4:26 - 29

Jesus said "The kingdom of God is like someone who plants seed in the ground.

Night and day, whether the person is asleep or awake, the seed still grows, but the person does not know how it grows.

By itself the earth produces grain. First the plant grows, then the ear and then all the grain in the ear. When the grain is ready, the farmer cuts it, because the harvest time has come.

Jesus, Man of mystery

Join us on Facebook for the All age service 9:30am Sunday mornings!

 WiganWestHub

Do you chat to Jesus? His is always with you and loves to hear all about your day at school. Tell him your troubles and let him help.

Week 3

20 JUN



Find and listen to 'With Jesus in the boat we can smile at the storm' on youtube

Make a boat!

1. Get a kitchen sponge, and a lollipop stick or any kind of stick and some paper in the shape of a triangle
2. Attach the triangle paper to the stick with cello tape
3. Ask your grown up to put the stick into the middle of the sponge and sail away!

Mark 4:35-41

When Jesus was in a boat, a very strong wind came up on the lake.

The waves came over the sides and into the boat so that it was already full of water. Jesus was at the back asleep.

His followers woke him and said "Don't you care that we are drowning!"

Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and said to the waves "Quiet, be still!" Then the wind stopped and it came calm.

Mark 5:21-43

While Jesus was speaking people came to tell him a girl had died.

But Jesus paid no attention to what they said. He told the girls father "Don't be afraid; just believe"

He took hold of the girls hand and said "Young girl, stand up"

At once the girl stood up and started walking.



prayer idea

27 JUN Week 4

Google and watch 'Jarius' Daughter kidshubb'

Draw Jarius daughter on some card (maybe an old cereal box).

Ask your grown up to cut the circle holes out for your fingers.

Pretend she is lying down to start with, say "Young girl, stand up".

You can make her walk about with your fingers like Jesus did.



St. Matthew's Cricket Corner

We start this Cricket Club update with very sad news. The club flag has been flying at half-mast since John Hargreaves sadly passed away just before the season started. John and his wife Jean were regular attendees at matches, supporting initially their son Andrew, and for over 10 years, their grandson Ryan, who has progressed through the ranks to be first team captain. John was a very fine cricketer, a legend at Poolstock CC, and recognised as a true gentleman who will be missed by all.

Following the funeral, we were so pleased that the Hargreaves family were able to come to the ground, with Ryan, raising the flag for the 2021 season in celebration of his grandad's life, including his incredible contribution to local cricket. In John's memory, the cricket club has made a contribution to the Hargreaves family chosen good cause which is to raise money for the Stroke Unit at Wigan Infirmary.

If anyone would like to support this great cause in John's memory, please contact us through the inbox facility or Chairman Gary Speakman on 07721639970 for more details.

It was great to start the 2021 season on time with the prospect of a full season, albeit with restrictions in place for the first few weeks at least. There has been so much hard work off the field and around the ground in the winter including the new drainage system. The drainage work is largely completed but only made possible by the fabulous support of the community through the crowd funder appeal and also sponsors including R Banks & Sons (Funerals) Ltd, our new Facilities Sponsor and also Wigan Warriors Foundation, the new first team shirt sponsor. Quite a coup for us to secure that sort of support in these challenging times.

To matters on the field - the first team have won their first two games with maximum points and sit at the top of the table. Highfield travelled to Birkenhead Park for the most recent game. With the world's oldest cricket pavilion as a backdrop (true), HCC skipper Ryan Hargreaves lost the toss and a little surprisingly was invited to bat. The visitors made a steady start with the opening bowlers a little wayward, but the two paced wicket made scoring difficult. Joel Welsby (17) was the first wicket to fall, trapped lbw, 30 for 1. And that became 43 for 2 when Mike Gaskell squirted a drive to point off the same bowler.

Opener Mike Farrell (25) had survived a caught and bowled chance but just as he was looking set for a big score went a similar way to Gaskell finding point, 66 for 3. The fourth wicket partnership between Hedley Molyneux and Ryan Hargreaves was to prove crucial as the home side struggled to find support for the opening bowlers. The pair added 74 in good time, both scoring freely as Highfield gained the ascendancy. Indeed it was a little surprising when Molyneux (38) was dismissed, chasing a wide one to nick off to the keeper.

And when skipper Hargreaves (42) also fell short of another deserved half century, there was still work to do. That brought Lakmal and Harry Moxham to the crease and the partnership took the game away from the home side. Both peppered the boundaries, scoring quickly as the Birkenhead bowlers buckled under the pressure, the partnership adding a remarkably quick 90 runs. Lakmal (56) reached his second half century in two games and Moxham (32) was on course for his 50, when Hargreaves rightly declared with 240 on the board in just 50 overs.

With the home side looking for a good start it was Highfield who struck early, Sam Rotherham trapping Parker in front and was unlucky not to claim a second the very next ball as the nick evaded the slip cordon. Having survived that chance, Dixon lead a counter attack, the pair adding 50 in good time before firstly Rotherham claimed another lbw dismissing captain Adkins (31) and Ryan Parry dismissing Dixon in a similar fashion, 51 for 3.

When Rotherham claimed his third wicket in a fine spell and slow left arm spinner Lakmal took 3 quick wickets including a stumping for keeper Welsby, it looked like it might be an early finish, the home side reeling at 97 for 7.

But Critchlow and Foran offered stubbornness and some attacking shots, as they moved towards a 50 partnership. Young Offspinner Jamie Darbyshire then claimed a vital wicket, removing Critchlow (34), Lakmal taking a fine running catch over his shoulder. That opened the door and the seamers returned

looking to finish off the match, with time the main issue. But Rotherham claimed his fourth wicket and Parry his second as the home side were dismissed with 6 overs remaining in the game, all out for 144. A shocking postscript to the game was that the Birkenhead Park captain, aged just 24, collapsed during the following week and passed away that same night.

But to finish on a more positive note, the juniors, sponsored again by our friends from Nicepak, opened their season with the under 9s very impressive.

Finn won the toss and decided to field first which I agreed with. Our pace battery of Jack K, Finn and Thomas started us off, sending down some screamers and were so unlucky not to pick up more wickets. Scarlett bowled the 4th over beautifully and restricted Wigan to 8 runs from 4 overs.....a great start.

The 'precision twins' Matt and Josh bowled at the second pair and certainly lived up to their

name.....bowling with such accuracy and length, both picking up wickets....Superb. Jack Hope was up next and took a wicket with his 4th ball....a lovely Yorker and another in his second over. Well done Jack. Ethan partnered Jack and bowled the best 6 balls I've seen him bowl.....all dot balls with fantastic accuracy. Anna-belle took over next and had a great spell of line and length bowling, only allowing one run, a fabulous over.

We were flying at this point and I could tell we had no intention of stopping. It was just a procession of disciplined bowling all throughout their 16 overs, restricting them to 201.

The biggest compliment I can give is that I had planned to give our senior bowlers 3 overs (like most clubs do), but I didn't need to, such was the magnificence of the whole bowling unit. The fielding was the best I'd seen it with plenty of 'noise' being brought.....a most perfect start.

We discussed at half time, the importance of 'protecting your wicket' which everyone certainly did.....no one was out in the whole innings, (apart from one run out) which I've not encountered before at this club. Finn and Thomas went in first and had to curb their attacking instincts on instruction, laying us the platform to take us to 212.....a great start. Matty and Josh came in next and played at wide balls with aplomb, taking us to 234. In came Scarlett and Ethan who continued the discipline set by the previous two pairs, the former with her straight batting and the latter with his now trademark 'Ethan pull'.....a great boundary. They added another 19 to our total.

To be fair to the last pair, I told them to shut up shop, which they did with ease, waiting for the bad balls, and playing the good balls. Jack H's defensive shots were a joy to behold. They added another 19 to take us to 272.....another quite perfect innings.

At U9's level, teams can get carried away with trying to smash every ball to the boundary(T20 style), my job with Kieran, Paul and Stan's help is to teach the kids that cricket is about 'shot selection' when batting and line and length when bowling. The team today showed exactly those two things and I cannot offer any pointers for improvement, as it was a complete performance. Next week will be tougher no doubt, but if we play like we did this morning, not many teams will get the better of us.



St. Matthew's Women's Fellowship

St. Matthew's Women's Fellowship will restart meeting on Thursday 3rd June at 8pm in the Church Hall. All are welcome.

Sheila Highton

St Matthews Thursday Morning coffee 10.30 –11.30 relaunches as Parish of Wigan West Coffee Morning.

We are moving our coffee mornings from zoom and back to the Parish Hall starting from Thursday 10th June at 10.30 am. Come along and join us as we look forward to meeting some new faces and welcome back some of the regular people who use to attend the communion service as we look to developing this time on a Thursday. This is a great opportunity to join together and invite a friend.

Shelia Albers + Mark Wade

St Matthew's Guides update

We will not be starting our regular Guide meetings until September however, we do hope to have some contact with the girls before the summer break and will be in touch with them as soon as possible as we start to enjoy a more normal life.

The Guiders

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

We are taking bookings now for the amazing panto, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at Blackpool Grand Theatre on Sunday 2nd January 2022 at 1pm. Only £15pp (should be £25pp with coach), includes free coach to Blackpool and return to Pemberton. Children aged under 2 years go free. £10pp deposit secures your seats with the remainder to be paid in full by 15th Oct 2021 - always a fantastic afternoon.

Our thanks to Pemberton Ward Cllr, Eileen Rigby, for her bb grant to pay for the coach. Book at Pemfish, Chapel St, Pemberton (Closed Wed and Sun) Contact us on 07305 978989 if you want more info **Dave Arrowsmith**

Notices

Cuppa and Chat

Cuppa and Chat will restart at St. Matthew's Church Hall on Monday 7th June. Call in at any time between 2pm and 4pm for a Cuppa, biscuit and Chat or a Knit and Natter. All are welcome. We can accommodate young children if you are waiting to pick children up from school. Hope to see you.



Barbara Jenks

First Chairman of Highfield CC

As we approach our centenary, we are looking for some local insight and knowledge to help us strengthen our club records.

Our first ever Chairman was William Henry Speakman (no obvious relation to current Chairman Gary Speakman). William Henry and his wife Annie (Lancaster family from Little Lane originally) married in 1911 at St Mathews Church and lived in "Wildes Cottages" in 1920. They had moved to 5 Southern St, off Billinge Road, by 1928. William Henry passed away in 1935 aged just 46, leaving a widow Annie and three children Albert, Elsie and Edna. They lived at 34 Enfield Street in 1939. Annie passed away in 1975, Elsie later in 1990 (she married a John Galloway) and Albert in 1991. We aren't sure about Edna who we believe married a Robert Winstanley. Henry and Annie are buried in St Matthew's graveyard along with their 20 year old daughter who passed away in 1936.

It would be great to contact family members to see what they know about William Henry's time as Chairman in the early days of our club.

If any of the names above mean anything to you, please contact Gary on 07721 639970

Gary Speakman

Funnies

Some classroom "clangers" written by children who were studying Religion and the Bible.

The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

The Bishop preached Holy Acrimony which is another name for marriage.

Esau sold his copyright for a mess of potash.

Jacob didn't eat much except when there was a famine in the land.



The Philistines are islands in the Pacific.

Solomon had 300 wives and 700 cucumbers.

Jacob had a brother called Seesaw.

Salome was a lady who took off her clothes and danced before Harrods.

Sodom and Gomorrah are two famous volcanoes in Europe.

An idolater is a very lazy person.

One of the Christian virtues is humidity.

Moses went up Mount Cyanide.



235

Samson slew the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

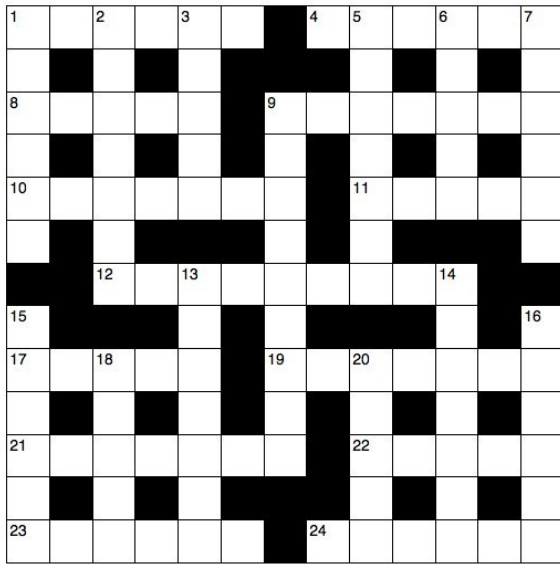
Word Search

Persecution of Christians worldwide is rising fast, so it is worth remembering St Alban, the first British martyr. Alban was a Roman citizen living in England when the Roman emperor, Diocletian, began a fierce persecution. Soon Alban found a desperate priest on his doorstep, hunted by local soldiers. Alban gave the priest shelter, and within days was converted. When the soldiers arrived, Alban took the priest's place, refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, and was condemned to death. Alban went to his execution on 22nd June 250AD with such serenity that one of the executioners was converted. He died on the site of the Hertfordshire town that now bears his name.



Alban	converted	serenity
martyr	soldiers	died
persecution	sacrifice	site
Roman	gods	town
emperor	condemned	name
Diocletian	death	doorstep
priest	execution	

C R O S S



W O R D

Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus

12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

St Matthews

Assistant Warden

John Dawson 01942 732526

Assistant Warden

Andrea Wood 07734 447699

Reader *Colin Hesketh* 07712 431105

Organist *Sue Gordon* 01942 214955

Deputy Organist

Colin Hesketh 07712 431105

Bereavement Support

John Dawson 01942732526

Bowling Club

Keith Harris 01942 211518

Choir *Sue Gordon* 01942 214955

Church Fellowship

Matthew Jones 07930 867209

Cuppa & Chat

Barbara Jenks 01942 213101

Friendship Group

Dave Whitter 07836330324

Boys Brigade

Jim Harrison 01942 218465

Guides:

Rainbows

Jennifer Halliwell 01942 218334

Gill Marsh 01942 207723

Brownies

Sandra Pollock 01942 215018

Guides

Helen Albers 07960 920587

Sunday Fun Club

Kathryn Louis 07557 106206

Sunday School *Marian Brown*

Women's Fellowship

Sheila Highton 01942 217754

Primary School Headteacher

Mrs A Barron 01942 747818

St Pauls

Assistant Warden

Cliff Unsworth 01942 200229

Assistant Warden

Maureen Gower 01942 234410

Assistant Warden

Miriam Unsworth 01942 200229

Reader *Arthur Hubbard* 01942 321977

Reader *Gordon Fath* 01942 621173

Organist

Kathleen Shepherd 01942 248683

Flowers *Pam Wilkinson* 01942 716668

Mother's Union

Anne Hubbard 01942 321977

Sunday School

Christiane Cook 01942 242984

Craft Workshop

Gillian Greenwood 01942 825670

Friends Together

Lynn Conroy 01942202249

Linda Berry 01942 492521

House Groups

Linda Catterall 01942 237333

Anne & Arthur Hubbard 01942 321977

Brian & Irene Marsh 01942 243265

Mike & Gill Greenwood 01942 825670

Primary School Headteacher

Mrs A Jackson 01942 243068

Need to book a hall?

St Matthews Church Hall:

Mr Jones 07930 867209

St James with St Thomas:

Alison Brown 01942 740777

St Pauls Church Hall:

Darren Speakman 07456 840803

BAPTISMS Speak to your worship community's leader or for St James call *David Ryder* on 01942 202423, for St Pauls call *Lucy Haigh* on 07900 252361, or for St Matthews call *Sheila Highton* on 01942 217754.

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

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

Wardens Corner

As I write this piece, we will hopefully be on step 3 of the roadmap out of lockdown. Let us pray that things go well, and we make it to 21st June and into a complete lifting of restrictions.

We have seen our Parish places of worship reopen with the return of a Sunday 9.00 am BCP service and a Wednesday morning Holy Communion service. Our food ministry continues to flourish through Tom's Pantry and will soon be augmented, hopefully, by provisions provided by our own community gardens across the parish.

It is not just our Parish buildings that are beginning to reopen but all walks of life are beginning to return to some form of normality. As Mark always says, it is all about "being present" and getting out there. As disciples we need to be visible.

As Mark mentioned last month it would be great for people across the parish to come together to cheer on England in the Euros. The games will be shown on a big screen in The Parish Hall at St Matthew's. All ages are welcome, but booking is required as restrictions will still apply. To book a table please email highfieldcic@gmail.com.

At the recent APCM myself and Ann were both re-elected as Church Wardens. What a year it has been. When we took on the roles last year there were so many exiting plans and initiatives in the pipeline, many of which have had to be shelved, mothballed or reimagined. This means we are now in for a very exciting season of growth across the Parish so get out there and "be present"

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

Martin Gaskell



Church Wigan Worship
by telephone

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



Watch England's first 2 group games on the big screen with friends and family of all ages at Highfield CIC



Full bar with table service and food available.
To book a table (max 6 per table or 1 family) no charge
Email highfieldcic@gmail.com

Sunday 13th June 2.00pm

England v Croatia

Friday 18th June 8.00pm

England v Scotland