



Wigan West Parish Magazine



WiganWestHub
Wigan West
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March 2021 £1

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Please note all copy for the magazine should either be typed or written in block letters, signed and dated. The deadline dates is the 15th of the Month. The production team reserves the right to amend copy, if appropriate.

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Dear Friends

We are now in Lent and this time last year we went into our very first lockdown, we shared our last hug, maybe that pint with a friend, popping into Church to do a few jobs, picked up kids from an afterschool Club. How the last twelve months has changed.

However away from Covid, frustrations of 2020 and the start of 2021. Something has not changed, God. Lent did not change last year and will not change this year. We might not be able to gather as much as we would traditionally have but Lent is not a season to give up chocolate and tell everyone about it, Lent is a season to draw in and close to God.

We come to God at the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday in repentance, asking for forgiveness, to begin Lent in a place of peace and seeking him.

So how is Lent? Are you drawing in? What have you taken up? One of my joys of the last 12 months has been the opportunity to join together as Church Wigan in worship. Through those who have been able to connect to Church Wigan Facebook page for Morning and Evening prayers but many praying together by following with the paper copy or on the Church Wigan website, to the daily reflections from Church Wigan. If you don't know about these, check out the Church Wigan website or sign up for the daily emails. What has been so good is as one Church we have prayed and worshiped together.

There has been so much hurt and pain in the last 12 months, I have just been watching an interview from Whiston Hospital on ITV, sharing about the trauma that all staff are facing daily of tiredness and seeing so many coming on the ward and losing their lives. Covid has meant each one of us has been affected, many of us have lost loved ones, many of us have felt lost and hopeless. Being lost is hard and when your lost you want to be found.

Lets take ourselves back to that invitation in Lent, we are not invited to a church building, we are not invited, to that group, we are not invited to that course or even invited to go for that drink. We are invited to come to God, to spend time with Him, to listen to Him, to seek Him.

Our challenge this Lent is to really take up this challenge to spend time with God. As we look towards Spring and the Summer, where in hope we shall begin to meet more, groups will start again and many new things will be created in response to how things have changed, for example what are we offering those who have been bereaved in last 12 months, how are we connecting with our young people? How we meet with people who have not left their house for 12 months. The huge financial implications of the last 12 months where many are struggling to feed families, in debt fearful of each month.

To be ready for meeting, sharing hope and the promise of God, we need begin in a place of prayer, meeting God. With this in mind we shall be finishing our small groups on 17th March and then the 24th March and 7th April we shall gather in prayer via Zoom. Also we are gathering 10am each Sunday on Zoom to pray, and hope to introduce a time of prayer before our services when we meet in buildings.

When we come to a place of listening, waiting and prayer God will ignite and speak to us. So this Lent I invite you to use this season to listen and wait and I finish with these words from James. A great book to read and pray through in Lent.

James 5: 5-7

Be patient, then, my friends, until the Lord comes. See how patient farmers are as they wait for their land to produce precious crops. They wait patiently for the autumn and spring rains.⁸ You also must be patient. Keep your hopes high, for the day of the Lord's coming is near.

God Bless Rev Mark



Services

St Matthews

St James with
St Thomas

St Pauls

March	
7	Sunday 10.30
14	Sunday 10.30
21	Sunday 10.30
28	Sunday 10.30

March	
7	Sunday -
14	Sunday -
21	Sunday
28	Sunday

March	
7	Sunday 10.30
14	Sunday 10.30
21	Sunday 10.30
28	Sunday 10.30

MEDIA SERVICES ONLY

All services subject to immediate change due to changing laws and tiers

Please keep your eye on social Media for service information for March.

9.30 All Age service Live on Facebook Live:

Join us every Sunday live on West Hub Facebook page for 30 minutes 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.



**Zoom Prayer Sundays
10.00am—10.30am
(just before the opening for the service, same access codes)**

Every Sunday we gather from **10.30 on Zoom** for a 11am 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 as a Church family in the Parish of West Wigan. To join email Mark at hubbleader.west@churchwigan.org and each week you will receive a Zoom Link for the service.

Sin

Of all the concepts in the Christian religion, none has been more decisively rejected in modern society than that of sin. The widely acclaimed TV series set in the context of the 1980 Aids epidemic has as its title, *It's a Sin*. This choice of title makes it clear that many people now take it for granted that "sin" is not only an outdated category, but that the very concept is harmful and oppressive.

A word translated as "sin" in English translations of New Testament is the Greek word, *αμαρτία* (*hamartia*). The basic meaning of this word is "missing the mark" (as in an archery competition) or taking the wrong path and getting lost.

The Bible insists that God made the world, and that he made it good. Yet, when we look around us, we see both good and bad. There is a great deal that is good about the world, there is a great deal of love and kindness, of joy and achievement. But there is also much that is wrong. There is massive inequality and violence. Millions of human beings lack the necessities of life, or live a life without basic freedoms. Good things, like human sexual relationships, are twisted into forms which are oppressive and abusive. Can it be doubted that, in so many ways, human beings have missed the mark, have taken a wrong path and have become lost?

What is to be done about this? Laws can certainly help. In a developed society, with reasonably honest institutions and a system of law, there is no doubt that most people live a better, more secure life than they would in conditions of anarchy, where the weak have no protection from the strong.

The people of Israel were particularly proud of their Law. Not only did they believe that it had been given to them by God, through Moses, but they thought it was obviously better than any other system around at the time, and much better than the chaos outside organised society. Look at Psalm 19. The first six verses tell of the perfection of the heavens, the mathematical precision of the movements of the heavenly bodies mirroring God's own perfection. Then, without missing a beat, from verse 7, the perfection of God's Law is celebrated in the same way.

Yet, in verse 12, the psalmist pleads, "But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults." Even if God's Law is perfect, how can we keep it?

Inherent in the concept of sin, of missing the mark, of getting lost, is the possibility of change. It is possible, having missed the mark, to hit it next time. It is possible, having got lost, to find the right way again. If there is sin, then there might also be repentance.

Having given up on the idea of sin, it was perhaps inevitable that society would, in time, also give up the idea of the possibility of repentance and forgiveness. We see that in our growing prison populations, in our overcrowded, drug-riddled prisons and impossibly overworked prison staff. If bad people are just bad, then all we can do is lock them away for as long as possible.

If we are losing the battle on "sin", then matters are just as bad with "forgiveness". People are exasperated when Christians talk about forgiving. If the mother of a murdered son is known to be a Christian, reporters will thrust a microphone in her face and ask, "Do you forgive his murderer?" They understand Christians to teach cheap forgiveness, cheap grace.

But go into a Christian church and you will encounter a Man hanging on a cross - depicted above a Catholic altar or preached from a Protestant pulpit. We can't fully understand why Jesus had to die to bring us forgiveness, but we do know that God takes sin seriously. The harm done by wrongdoing cannot easily be dismissed. The people who are hurt by wrongdoing matter. To heal the wounds caused by sin, God, in the person of his Son, himself came to be wounded and tortured. "Hands that flung stars into space, to cruel nails surrendered."

God's solution to the problem of sin was not merely to condemn it. It was to come himself in Jesus, to take on all the chaos and wrong of the world, and to give himself for our redemption, as someone redeems an item from a pawnbroker, to pay the price to set us free. Forgiveness is both free and infinitely costly.

We cannot avoid missing the mark in our own strength. We cannot always know the right path to take. But God has not only offered us forgiveness, he has promised the help of his Holy Spirit to guide us. This is Good News that is still, and always will be, relevant. The alternative is resignation and despair.

Gordon James

The Friendship Group – **St. Matthew's**

The 'lockdown' and 'social distancing' has been very trying for almost all of us over the past many months. Not something that you need to be told of course. One specific group of people who have been particularly hit by these circumstances is the elderly. Often living alone, they are the age group particularly susceptible to corona virus and have been repeatedly told to self-isolate to shield themselves from risk. Being alone they can therefore go for very long periods without social contact of any kind and if their church is also closed, which can be their sole means of contact with others, they can feel that the world is against them. If you consider that a lot of these people can have few contacts at the best of times, it can often bring feelings of intense loneliness.

This is why the Friendship Group was formed, to try to give a little companionship to people who otherwise may struggle to find it.

It was the original idea of Mary Pratt who lost husband Sam a short time before I lost my wife Margaret. She approached me with the idea of forming a group to cater for people who have been bereaved. It struck me as a very good idea and so we began. From an initial membership of six we gradually increased to our present level where we have had as many as 22 members and regularly see 18+ attendees at our weekly meetings on Wednesday afternoons in the Parish Hall. We have tea, coffee, home-made cake and even the odd bottle of wine (or two) and buffets to **celebrate birthdays. We also visit local hostellers for meals and St. John's Pantomime at Christmas,** with a regular highlight being lunch at Ashton Golf Club arranged by Brian. I have been fortunate enough to attract sponsorship from the National Lottery and also our local councilors to pay for transport to places of interest further afield. Due to current circumstances we have been unable to arrange anything this year after our initial trip for lunch and a boat trip on Windermere had to be cancelled back in April. However, the cash is still there. We ask for a nominal membership fee of one pound per week currently, which invariably has been donated to our church for letting us use the Parish Hall. We have also paid for items, e.g. the church Christmas Tree for the past couple of years as a way of thanks.



This brings me to the reason for this article. For a long time I have felt that bereavement as the only qualification for membership is rather unfair and precludes many from joining. I feel that simple loneliness is also an eminent qualification. I have therefore personally contacted all of our members to ask their opinions and been gratified to receive overwhelming support to open membership to others.

It has to be stated however, that our original aim of catering for bereaved people is still at the forefront of our thoughts and we are not looking for married couples to apply for membership. I **also considered that a change of name could perhaps be appropriate and the acronym 'CAMEO' was suggested. This stands for 'come and meet each other' and could be considered apt in the circumstances.** However, this is something which can be debated at our first meeting and I have no strong feeling either way.

So, if you are not already a member and feel that you qualify and would like to join us please come along. People from our fellow Hub churches are very welcome, though we have always said that we are interdenominational and have currently members of R.C., Methodist and Salvationist churches in our midst. Because we are unable at time of writing to give any date for the recommencement of our meetings perhaps you may wish to ring me first, either for yourself, or for others that you feel could benefit. I will keep you updated on what is planned. In fact, by the **time you read this we should all have received vaccination against the 'lurgy' and will hopefully be getting ready for the rest of our lives.**

Dave Whitter

Notices



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#

Women's Fellowship

As I write this it is nearly twelve months since we last met. I know that many of you have really missed our weekly meetings, not just the various activities but the chance to have a good chat with our friends!

On the last week in January I thought to myself that this should be the first meeting of the New Year with Holy Communion in church, and the chance to look forward to the year ahead. At the moment it's impossible to plan a programme as we don't know how soon we shall be able to meet once more. That won't be a problem – we'll make it up as we go along! Take care of yourselves

Sheila Highton

I have a selection of Mother's Day & Easter cards in my "pop up shop" situated in my garage
Eileen Johnson



West Hub Coffee morning

Thursday

10.30am-11.30am

Every Thursday grab a drink and click on to Zoom as we join together.

To get the link email Mark at:

hubleader.west@churchwigan.org or ring
01942 494906

Same Zoom code each week

#WestHubBrewTime

The Children's Society

Normally at this time of year its "Box-opening" time and I have had several enquiries from box-holders about what is happening. Because of current restrictions, the Children's Society has put things on hold. However, if you wish to open our own box and let me have a cheque (payable to The Children's Society) I will pass it on to the Society. Otherwise as soon as things are back to normal I will let you know.

Thank you for your support

Sheila Highton

Church Wigan will remain open for all. Worship and prayer will continue online and via telephone, and pastoral care redoubled. Ministers will conduct funerals, and important activities like our food outlets will continue to feed those in need.

Lockdown Outing

The day dawns bright and early,
Excitement's in the air,
The frost lies sparkling on the ground;
A lovely day to share.

My phone is pinging constantly
As I relay the happy news,
Then rifle through my wardrobe
Wondering what to choose.

Smart trousers and a T-shirt,
No scruffy clothes today,
I even put on make-up
What will my husband say?

I'm ready for my trip out,
Pleased I don't look drab,
Where is it I'm going?
To have my Covid jab!

by Maureen Poole, Bournemouth

LIGHTHOUSE ONLINE



At the start of Lent 2020 *Lighthouse* were gathering after school on a Tuesday, prayer walking around Worsley Mesnes each day, getting together to pray and sing once a week, and being together to have fun and eat each week.

Lighthouse stopped gathering when lockdown started, and due to the amount of online things happening across Church Wigan and West Hub we decided not to do our own. We were really pleased to see that our *Lighthouse* people were supporting each other - *Lighthouse* wasn't just a meeting people came to, it had grown into a community with Jesus at its centre. We didn't stop being a worship community though, our meetings or lack thereof didn't define us. Throughout 2020 *Lighthouse* supported both each other and the wider community with phone calls, prayer, food hampers, shopping, and anything else we were able to do. We also delivered education packs and food packs on behalf of St James School.

At the start of 2021 the *Lighthouse* leadership team discerned that it was time to launch *Lighthouse* online. We prayed and planned via Zoom, asking the question of how we replicate our in-building gathering which was based around sitting down together, chatting, and sharing a meal.

Each week we prepare and deliver a pack for each household which contains

- Snacks for eating during our meeting.
- Printouts of the activities and the Bible passage we're looking at, so that people who aren't able to engage fully online have everything written down and don't have to hear everything we say.
- Crafts, for younger and older children.
- Response activity, so that people have the opportunity to respond to what has been said with an action.
- A straightforward meal for after, so that people aren't having to worry about preparing a meal after doing Lighthouse.

We have around 30 families who are part of Lighthouse with a total of nearly 100 people who join in. Our gatherings, held via Zoom each Tuesday and streamed to our Facebook group, give people the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel and to be part of a community which eats together, learns together, and prays together.

You can find *Lighthouse* on Facebook (search for *lighthouseWigan*). We have a private Facebook group where we share the Zoom details and host the livestream, please message us if you'd like to join in.



Word Search

Life is full of ups and downs: after blessings, hard times often follow. They are not meant to destroy us but to help us grow spiritually by deepening our faith and dependence on God. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil – to give Him the opportunity to stand fast against the enemy. The devil’s temptations were based on half-truths, which Jesus rejected by standing firm on the whole truth of Scripture. The truth sets us free!



Je-

Holy
Spirit
Jordan
Wilderness
Tempted
Devil
Fasted
Hungry
If

Bread
Alone
Kingdom
World
Authority
Glory
Worship
Me
Serve

rusalem
Pinnacle
Temple
Stone
Foot
Angels
Bear
Strike
Test

As a Christian one of the biggest and greatest joys we have is to give. To give our finances, our time, and our lives to God. A relationship with Jesus is about sacrifice. He sacrificed his life for you. To follow him will bring persecution, hurt, pain and sacrifice. It will also bring you joy, laughter, fellowship, hope and promise of what is to come.

I don't know about you, but I love God, I love his plans, I love what he is doing in our new Parish and have been overwhelmed with stories of God at work in our community in this last year even through the challenges of 2020 and living through Covid19. Throughout my Christian life one of the biggest joys is to give. Each year me and Toni pray together as we begin the year to pray these prayers:

What are you asking us to do this year?

What do you want us to give to not only our tithe to God, but what charities, people and needs?

Why do we pray this prayer? Because this is what we are called to do.

We are not asked to give to a building but are asked to give to God.

There has been concern about joining as a new Parish about where are money is going, new worship communities beginning how do they begin to give.

It is not a complicated answer we give to the Parish of West Wigan. Where does this go? Across every worship community, but if I am honest, I do not really want to think about where or who it comes from. The focus and challenge I would like to offer you is we are not giving to that worship community or building or even Parish. We are giving to God.

In Leviticus is says this:

³⁰ *One tenth of all the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the LORD.*

This is where the idea that we give 10% of our income to God, however over the years there been challenge on this, for example when living in London I remember being in a small group and this guy said if that was the case I would hardly give as his wage was so high and giving only 10% would not hurt his bank account, then another person in the same group said she would not have enough to pay the rent or eat if she did that.

The biblical call to give is we give to God, not the building, not history but to God. We give what we can, God loves a cheerful giver are you full of joy when you give?

One of my favourite passages in the bible is the Widows Mite in Mark 12: 41-44. Here we see this widow give only a few coins, but this coin comes from a place of sacrifice.

When we give it comes from a place of sacrifice. That is the biblical teaching and call as a Christian we don't give because it is nice to do but it comes

Giving Is A

from a place of giving God the glory, it is a sacrifice and such a joy to. I could share story after story about how joyful it is to give both personally, within Church giving and in leading a Christian charity.

In 2021 what does this mean to you?

Some hard facts for us all to hear and understand like so many other areas within the nation the Church is struggling financially. This is not because we have overspent on our buildings, we have not got fancy kit, as a PCC our headline is simple we just don't have enough coming in on the plate/ online. We have gone nearly 12 months of not receiving gifts on the plate but even before Covid we were struggling.

2021 we shall be asking you to prayerfully consider your giving, monthly or as a one-off gift. One of our members of our PCC prophetically said these words.

"Imagine if we had 300 people give £1000 in 2021 we would have £300,000"

This would pay for our running costs, Parish share or now known as Deanery share which enables ministry and

services to happen and grow new leaders and new congregations, maintenance of our buildings and most importantly enable us to plant, grow and

develop new ministries and new leaders. As our Bishops have challenged to us to see: A Bigger Church, making a bigger difference, more people knowing Jesus and more Justice in the world. To enable us to do this we need to looking to the kingdom not the bank balance.

Jeff our fantastic treasurer has outlined all the ways we can give and Jeff has a fantastic team of Assistant treasurers:

Gordon James at St James

Angela Matthewson and John Ashurst at St Matthews

Andrew Trow and Karen Vickerman at St Pauls.



To Do, Join In

We want to thank them for stepping into these new roles and Jeff leading the team.

Finally to make the giving point clear giving to the Parish of West Wigan. Jeff outlines if you were to set up Parish Giving Scheme it goes to Parish of West Wigan now. This means the money goes across ALL worship communities. You still are giving to your congregations but as I have explored in the article all our money goes to God not a building or congregation and I encourage you to celebrate this, be joyful in your giving and ask God in prayer what He maybe asking you to give. My hope and dream is that in 2022 we wont be thinking about finances that we can be a Parish that is looking at who we are giving too. For us to be able to do this we need to be people looking towards God and how we give to him, Jeff is going to outline this but I leave you with these words from James.

Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God, the Creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change or cause darkness by turning (James 1:17)

The ways to give?

First of all, a big thank you to all those who have continued supporting the work of the church over the last very difficult 12 months be it by giving time or money without you we could not have carried on. There are several ways you can continue supporting your church in these financially challenging times.

By far the preferred method is by joining the Parish Giving Scheme and a big thank you to all those who have already signed up. If you have not already joined the scheme please seriously consider doing so, it only takes a 10 minute phone call.

Why give by this method?

Your gift is *always* in your full control (by email or phone) with PGS. The Scheme is for every church member with a bank account. You do not need to pay tax.

Your gift leaves your account by Direct Debit on the 1st of each month. It is in Wigan West account by the 11th and any Gift Aid reclaims by the end of the month. The PGS saves time and administration and helps with cash flow. Even though we can't worship in church your gift will support our ministry and PGS helps us make generous giving part of our daily life and discipleship.

How do I do this?

You can give to Wigan West Parish by making a ten-minute phone call:

1. Have your bank details to hand: account number, sort code and the name of your bank.
2. Have the church details to hand: our church name **Wigan West Parish** and our unique PGS church code: **220220288**
3. Ring the PGS office in Gloucester on **0333 002 1271**. They will guide you through the process.
4. If you are a taxpayer and wish to Gift Aid you can arrange this during your phone call. Any existing Gift Aid declaration to Wigan West Parish is unaffected.

You have the option to increase your giving by inflation each year. Many do this. If you do choose this, PGS will check with you every year to make sure you still want to increase your Direct Debit.

You will receive confirmation by email or post of your Direct Debit, the amount and date of your first PGS gift. If you already give by standing order, remember to cancel it once PGS have confirmed with you.

If you already give regularly by Standing Order you will need to cancel your existing one, as the current existing church bank accounts will be closed later in the year and either join the PGS or raise a new standing order in favour of **Wigan West PCC Sort Code 30-90-89 Account Number 58811360** this is the new **Lloyds Bank** account.

Those of you who prefer to stay with the envelope scheme can just carry on giving by that method, it will stay in existence for however long it is needed.

Anyone wishing to make donations by cheque should make them payable to Wigan West PCC or alternatively by BACS transfer to the Wigan West PCC account above.

If you require any further information or assistance please don't hesitate to contact Jeff on 07595 882321 or e-mail jeffmccann11@hotmail.com or our Gift Aid Secretary Angela on 07595 822351 or e-mail angelamatthewson@sky.com

God Bless, **Jeff**

ST. MATTHEW'S CRICKET CLUB

As we look forward to further works on our beautiful ground following our fabulous Crowdfunding appeal that raised £25,500, thank you all so much; it's worth reminding ourselves of how important the ground and facilities have been to the local community over many years.

These are a selection of photos taken between 1934 and 1955.

Before 1956, the Parish Hall, Bars, Lounge and current Cricket Pavilion didn't exist. Instead, there was just the original building built in 1924, which now comprises the hall entrance, main hall kitchen and ladies and gents toilets. In

front of what are now the hall kitchen windows, was a veranda with a striking wooden structure and glass canopy. This building was the original cricket pavilion.



These pictures show:

A gathering of ladies and children in 1934 for what is referred to as a "Field Treat". They are stood outside of the original cricket pavilion as outlined above.

A rare picture of the old refreshment hut which was positioned on the side elevation of the original building, so before the Parish Hall was built. The structure of the original cricket pavilion is clearly visible.

The gentleman in the foreground looks very much like Jimmy Hesketh, a long standing cricket club Secretary and one of Highfield CC's very first Honorary Life Members.

A picture taken in 1955 of the men that built the Parish Hall, a fabulous feat. Rev. WH Bullough is centre of the front row but many of those around him will be relatives of current players, club supporters and the community.

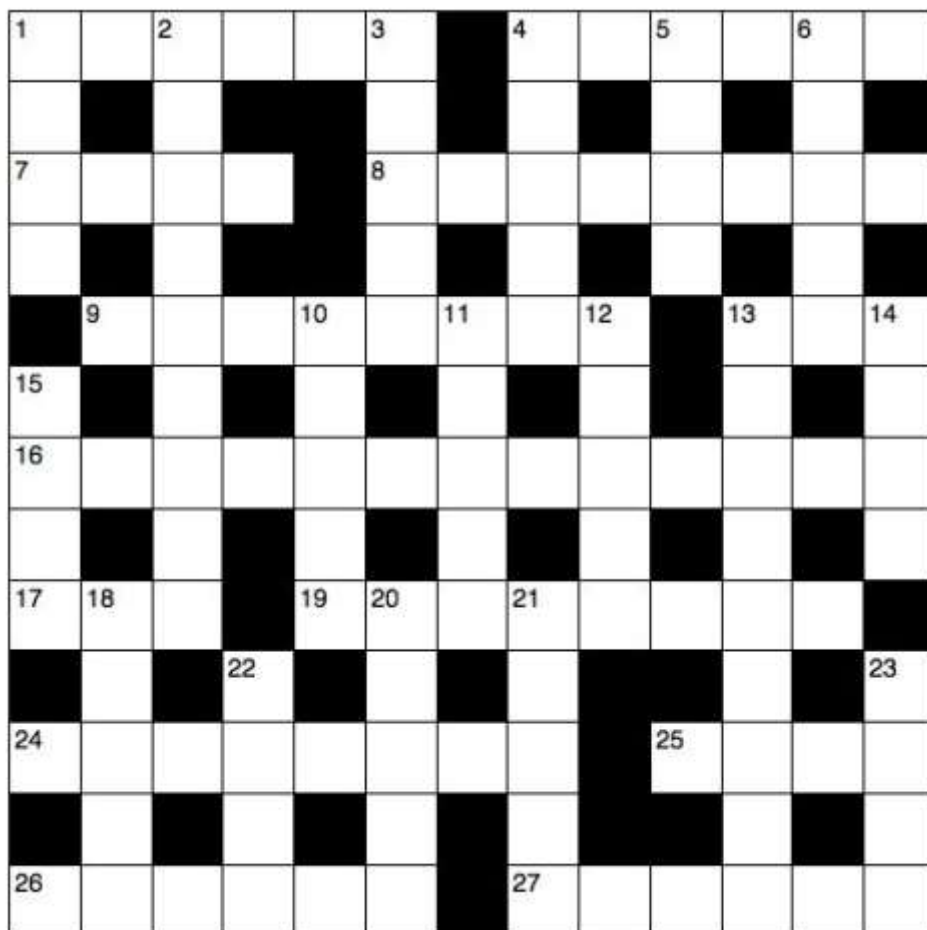
It would be good if you could post a name of anyone you know on any of the pictures.



We are always looking for old photos and memorabilia associated with the cricket club, so please do let us know if you have anything by contacting me on 07721639970.

Gary Speakman

CROSS



WORD

Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)
 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)
 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)
 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
 6 To put forth (5)
 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel'(Genesis 25:26) (5)
 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha'srequest (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times thatyou know me' (Luke22:34) (4)
 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
 22 Does (anag.) (4)
 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this(Genesis 41:19) (4)



YOUTH

The time between pancake day and Easter is called **Lent**. We remember how Jesus went into the desert on His own for 40 days and didn't eat anything.

v	l	a	b	c	p	m	q	z	f	o	g	u	z	a
v	v	b	h	v	c	y	m	v	i	o	q	r	m	z
m	l	b	i	o	t	h	t	d	q	j	j	c	a	n
l	v	c	q	r	l	m	f	d	y	e	s	h	u	b
a	r	t	o	h	b	y	w	d	x	s	x	r	n	g
s	p	f	e	m	s	n	w	f	k	u	r	i	d	o
t	s	d	w	m	p	l	o	e	l	s	x	s	y	o
s	g	a	z	w	p	h	e	s	e	z	f	t	t	d
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r	y	c	u	h	i	p	t	e	y	o	u	t	d	a
v	i	l	c	d	t	d	f	i	r	i	n	y	a	y
u	v	z	k	z	i	t	f	j	i	i	d	d	y	k

Word List

- nights
- Good Friday
- Lent
- Christianity
- forty
- Maundy Thursday
- Holy Week
- days
- Easter
- temptation
- Last Supper
- Jesus

This is a great time to think about promises—God makes lots of promises to us and He ALWAYS keeps His promises. In the Bible we read about people who make promises to God, but they struggle to keep them. God is always ready to forgive us when we mess up, and He's amazing at making new plans for us when we go wrong.

Use the prayer activity below to help you make and keep promises to God.

Traffic Light Lenten Prayer

Jesus was tempted to turn his back on God. We can also be tempted to turn our backs on God. At Lent, we think about how we can follow in God's footsteps.

Use the traffic lights to help you to live like Jesus this Lent.

Colour the traffic lights red, amber and green.

Write one thing that **you will try to stop doing** in the red light

Write one thing that **you will get better at** in the orange light.

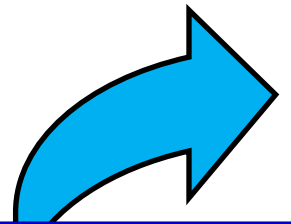
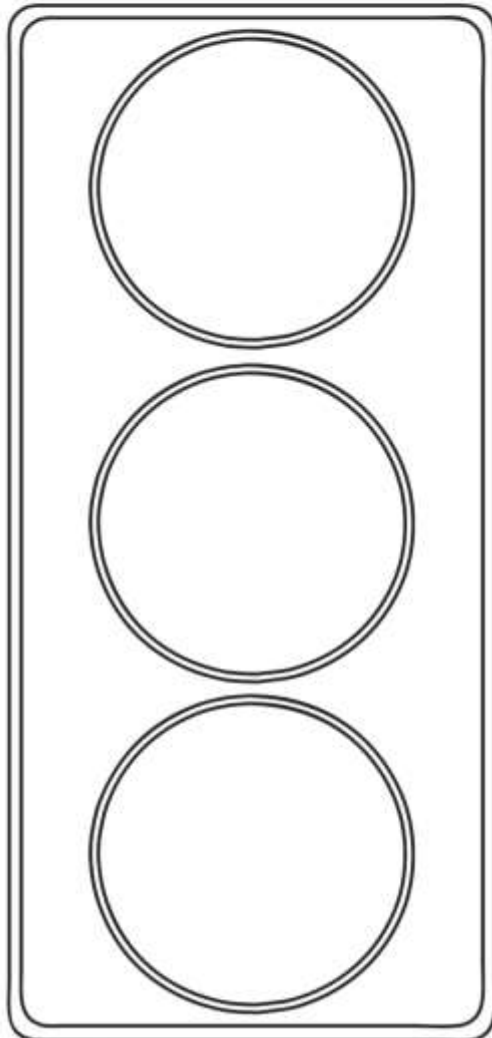
Write one thing that **you will start doing** in the green light.

If you are tempted to do something that you shouldn't, think red and **STOP!**

If you are trying to get better at something, keep trying and **DON'T GIVE UP!**

Every time you follow in God's footsteps, **CELEBRATE!**

You are living as Jesus wants you to this Lent.



Mothering Sunday Flower Bouquet

14 March

Colour in the flowers and the bow.

Cut along the solid rectangular outline.

Fold along the dotted lines, folding away from you so that the bow ends at the front.

God makes LOADS of promises to us, and He keeps every single one of them! Most importantly, He promises to love us no matter what we do, and He promises to make right everything we've done wrong if we ask Him to.

Here are a few of God's promises to YOU. Which is your favourite?

- ◆ **Psalm 145:9** The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.
- ◆ **1 Chronicles 16:34** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
- ◆ **Psalm 100:5** For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.
- ◆ **James 1:17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
- ◆ **2 Samuel 7:28** Sovereign Lord, you are God! Your covenant is trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant.
- ◆ **2 Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
- ◆ **Psalm 34:10** The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
- ◆ **Romans 8:32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?
- ◆ **John 8:12** I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.



A little something to lift your heart

You may be aware that most of School teaching at the moment is being done remotely by digital means, with those without supporting IT such as laptops placed at a disadvantage. I was delighted to be informed that as a community once again Highfield rose to the challenge and two laptops were dropped off at school by 2 very considerate individuals offering up no longer used laptops to fill the gap. Unfortunately due to digital security and data protection the laptops were unable to be circulated to children to access ongoing school work.

Following discussion with Rev Mark it was identified that the laptops could be used for the long term plan of community support with IT once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, both individuals were contacted and both willingly agreed to allow the laptops to be passed for community use.

As I sat to reflect on what appeared to be a missed opportunity, I received a phone call from a former pupil of Highfield St Matthew's School and a member of our church community, offering to pay for a laptop for school use. With the support of the school IT provider, an appropriate specification was identified, ordered and paid for by the anonymous benefactor.



I was delighted to drop off the laptop to the deputy head teacher Mr Lovgreen on Friday 12 February 2021 for the benefit of our children. See Photo

Don't forget although we are experiencing challenging and difficult times where there is a need, God provides. God bless all those who thought about others to offer the gifts we received.

Andrew Bond
Chair of Governors - Highfield St Matthew's C.E.
Primary School

Wardens Corner



As I write this Tom's Pantry are preparing for another big undertaking. They've already sourced the contents for 111 "Hampers for Half-Term" to be delivered on Pancake Tuesday to families from our Church Schools. On Monday an army of volunteers will turn up and (socially distanced and wearing PPI) pack the hampers and the day after a smaller company of drivers will turn up to deliver them. Another example of the ongoing mission taking place in our Parish of Wigan West.

We continue to do our best to keep in touch with those of you who don't have access to the technology to meet on line. Sometimes this is by just delivering a notice sheet through your door, sadly we still don't think it's wise to knock on every door and have a chat while we're there. Please use any of the ways of getting in touch that are elsewhere in this magazine especially if you know of someone who has been missed out.

I'd like to thank the magazine team, the people printing and delivering the magazine to all of us as a great way of keeping in touch.

After a meeting today with Professor Kate Ardern, the Director for Public Health in Wigan, we still have no clear idea of when it will be wise to open our churches again. The infection rates have dropped within the last few weeks but the numbers of people who are infected are still quite high. We need to proceed with extreme caution when we start to open up.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this we will be making plans for the future and looking forward to better times in the summer.

Very Best wishes to all

Ann Birch and Martin Gaskell
Churchwardens for The Parish of Wigan West

Need to book a Hall?

Please Note Halls are currently out of service

St Matthew Church Hall

St James with St Thomas

St Paul's church Hall

Please contact Mr M Jones
on: 07930 867209

Alison Brown on:
01942 740777

Please contact
Darren Speakman on:
07456840803

Need to book a Wedding, Baptism or Funeral?

Weddings contact: Gordon Fath:

Treasurer.benefice@churchwigan.org

Funeral Booking:

Funeral Co-Ordinator/ Data Officer- Church Wigan

01942 705641

Mobile: 077545 69022

E-mail: funeral.coordinator@churchwigan.org

Baptism Contact: St James, David Ryder 01942 202423

St Paul's Lucy Haigh 07900252361

St Matthew's, Shelia Highton 01942 217754

Tom's Pantry @ St James Church

Tom Pantry is open! 9.30-11.30. We open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9.30-11.30. £5 joining fee or swap your membership from Fur Clemt to Tom's Pantry. Then £3 per week for 18 food items and one non food item. Then a cafe Tuesday and Wednesday 10-12. Come and join us

Wellspring

In Term time at St Paul's Hall from 15:15-17.00

(currently closed due to Covid Restrictions)

Available on Wellspring Facebook page for online talk and prayer



Baptisms

St Matthews

None

St James with St Thomas

None

St Paul's

None

*DONATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE MARCH
MAGAZINE SHOULD BE HANDED IN BY 15TH
FEBRUARY*

Burials and Funerals

St Matthews

08/01/21	Peter Baugh	aged 73
25/01/21	Anthony Doherty	ages 69
27/01/21	Eric Braddock	aged 90

St James with St Thomas

18/12/20	Anne Patricia Bilsborough	aged 72
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St Paul's

12/01/21	Clifford Darby	aged 83
20/01/21	James Lee	aged 64
26/01/21	Edna Farnworth	aged 93
27/01/21	Annie Fairhurst	aged 94

Donations (all Churches)

All Funds

In loving memory of my dear husband Tony and my brother Graham Broadbent
From Barbara

Loving birthday memories (8th March) of Thomas Holland, a dear husband, dad and father-in-law
From Lily, Susan and Kevin

In loving memory of my dear husband John Menard
from Barbara xxx.

In loving memory of our dear Dad and Grandad John Menard.
From Carl, Jonathan, Paula, Jenny, Andy, Imogen, Lois, Joseph and Anna

In memory of all my loved ones
From Pauline Glover

Flower Fund

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.
Ed

Parish Organisations						
	St. James' with St. Thomas'		St. Paul's		St. Matthew's	
Baptism Bookings	David Ryder	01942 202423	Lucy Haigh	07900252361		
Bereavement Support	David Berry	01942 386987	Vacant		Ian Mathewson	07595898737
Bowling Club					Keith Harris	01942 211518
Boys Brigade (All groups including Anchor Boys)					Jim Harrison	01942 218465
Brownies					Sandra Pollock	01942 215018
Choir					Sue Gordon	01942 214955
Church Fellowship					Matthew Jones	07930 867209
Craft Workshop			Gillian Greenwood	01942 825670		
Cuppa & Chat					Barbara Jenks	01942 213101
Flowers	Iris Wright Jean Hogan	01942 493850 01942 492888	Pam Wilkinson	01942 716668		
Friendship Group			Linda Berry Lynn Conroy	01942 492521 01942 202249	Mary Pratt	01942 731346
Guides					Helen Albers	07960 920587
Senior Section Unit						
House Groups			Linda Catterall Anne & Arthur Hubbard Brian & Irene Marsh Mike & Gill Greenwood	01942 237333 01942 321977 01942 243265 01942 825670		
Mother's Union	Margaret Baxendale	01942 238542	Anne Hubbard	01942 321977		
Rainbows					Jennifer Halliwell	01942 218334
Sunday Fun Club					Gill Marsh	01942 207723
Sunday School	Jean Edwards David Ryder	01942 202423	Christiane Cook	01942 242984	Marian Brown	07557 106206
Toddler Group			Christiane Cook	01942 242984		
Women's Fellowship					Shelia Highton	01942 217754

