

This month's headlines and information from Church Wigan to keep you in the know

New Sports Chaplains

In a sport-mad place like Wigan, sports chaplaincy is an innovative and effective way to reach people of all ages with Christ's love, especially young people. Already opportunities have opened up in football, cricket, horse racing and Parkrun. In September 3 people completed the Sports Chaplaincy UK Induction Course, with plans for more training in Wigan in the new year. Pray for our new Chaplains, Martin Gaskell, David Jones and Barry Lynam, and those already ministering. sportschaplaincy@churchwigan.org

Celebrate Recovery

**Wednesday evenings, doors open 7.15pm,
St Mark's Newtown**

This is a Christ-centred 12-step recovery programme which helps people address their hurts, habits and hang-ups. Before lockdown it helped people in Wigan, both churchgoers and those with previously no connection, discover a safe place to find community and freedom from issues that controlled their lives. We're delighted that the programme has been relaunched. To find out more recovery@churchwigan.org

Thanking God for the harvest

Ancient Jewish religious festivals such as Passover all have links to harvest time and Christians likewise also celebrate the creative power and generosity of God at this time of year with harvest festivals in churches and schools. In Wigan we do this in many different ways – check out what's happening locally and join in the thanksgiving.

*May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon us his children,
that we may use his gifts to his glory
and the welfare of all peoples. Amen.*



Living the Psalms V – Final session

Psalms to pray 'Your kingdom come'

Sat 2 Nov, 9.30am-1pm, St Francis Kitt Green

Many of the Psalms are prayers addressed to God as King and others are prayers for the King of Israel. In this session we explore how these Psalms help us pray for God's Kingdom to come 'in Wigan as in heaven' as Jesus taught in the Lord's Prayer. The Kingdom that has come and continues to come through Jesus. Come along even if you have not been to the other sessions.

Book your free place via the website or by using the QR code: www.buytickets.at/churchwigan
Alternatively call 01942 705260



Don't forget: Bishop John at The Well

Sun 6 Oct, 7pm, The Well, St Mark's Newtown

John is an inspiring teacher of the faith and will help refresh our souls through the psalms.

New Appointment



Maya Shaw joined Church Wigan in August as a Youth Mission Enabler, serving with the Next Generation Team. Her role is to work alongside

volunteer leaders to grow new worshipping communities where young people can discover faith and grow as disciples of Jesus. Currently she is working with secondary-aged young people connected to Wellspring in Goose Green and the Explore Group in Hawkley Hall High School. She also ministers with the chaplain at The Deanery High School, running Youth Alpha and enhancement sessions for the Sixth Form, and is looking forward to upcoming projects within the Team. Maya studies Theology, Mission & Ministry at Emmanuel Theological College, and previously founded the Christian Union at Winstanley College.

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The Deanery CE High School: Good news and special invitation

Rev Helen Deegan, chaplain at The Deanery High School, reports some encouraging news. First, all year 7 students have received a copy of the New Testament from the Gideons. Following on from last year's success, the Church Wigan Next Gen Team have started the next Youth Alpha Course on Wednesdays as part of the PHSE curriculum. Finally, the school's Harvest Celebration for students, parents, staff and wider community takes place on **Tue 8 Oct, 7pm** in the Hutchinson Hall in school and you are invited! Come along as we celebrate how food pantries are making a difference in Wigan. It would be wonderful for lots of people from across Church Wigan to join in.

New! St Francis Family Craft Group

Offering crafts and activities for all the family, this new group will run on the second Saturday of each month between 10am and 12noon. The next meeting is Sat 12 Oct.

The social impact of Lifted ministries

We now have over 100 volunteers who serve in our pantries across Church Wigan, enabling us to bless nearly 2,400 households, some of them among the most vulnerable in Wigan, offering them good quality food at greatly reduced prices in a place of welcome and community. If we continue serving the same number of people as we did in the first half of the year, by the end of 2024 we will have saved these households £446,000 on their weekly shop. Quite an impact!

The government Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) again approached Lifted to provide hampers during the summer for children/young people in receipt of free school meals. Ashton Pantry, Tom's Pantry and The Pantry at Christ Church Ince took part, ensuring 52 children received at least four meals. Thank you, amazing volunteers!

For your diary

Harvest Supper, St Stephen Whelley, Sat 5 Oct 6pm
Entertainment provided, bring your own drink. Text 07849 183520 if attending for catering purposes or speak to Mandy Kearsley.

Quiz night, St Elizabeth Aspull, Sat 5 Oct 7.30pm
£5 pp, teams up to 6. Refreshments included, bring your own drink. To book contact Sheila Ryding 01942 832369/ 07740 965110.

Harvest Supper, St David Haigh, Fri 11 Oct 6.30pm
2 Courses meal, drink on arrival, entertainment. £12 per ticket. Contact Margaret Bishop 01942 832824.

An Evening with Edward Elgar, Sat 12 Oct 7.30pm
St Michaels Church, contact 01942 235900 for tickets.

Growing Hope, Sat 12 Oct 10am, Newtown Community Garden. Activities for all ages, perfect for families: stories about Jesus - helping in the garden - games and activities - snacks and drinks.

Community Market, Sat 12 Oct 10am-3pm, St Lukes Orrell church and the church hall. Over 50 local craft and food stalls. Kids activities. Food and drink.

Town Centre & Central Hub Quiz Night with cheese wine and music, Fri 18 Oct 7pm, St Michaels Church Swinley. Message Stan or Sam by 14 Oct.

Barn Dance, St Peters Pavilion, Fri 25 Oct, 7.30pm
Tickets £20 Adult, £10 Child 12-16, £5 under 12s
Inc hot food and dessert. Book in St Peters Church, Hindley, or via the St Peters Facebook page.

Halloween Trail, Sat 26 Oct, Ashton Town Centre.
The trail is organised by local businesses and ends at St Thomas for refreshments and craft activities that celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World. Church open from 11am - 1pm.

Don't have access to email or social media? If you need help getting more info about any of these activities, speak to your local church leader who will assist you.