**Standish Christmas Market just two weeks away**

Standish’s huge, one-day celebration of Christmas is back in just two weeks’ time – with the Christmas Market returning bigger and better than ever before.

This year, the Market – organised by Standish Voice – has more attractions and live music, with an extra entertainment stage and real reindeer as well as the usual craft halls, outdoor stalls and food court.

The Market – on Saturday, November 30th – will be open from 11am to 8pm with music from bands, singers and school choirs running throughout the day on the Parish Hall car park, next to a drinks marquee where you can buy beers, cocktails, prosecco and hot mulled wine.

The popular Snow Globe returns outside Standish Library and Father Christmas and children’s activities will be inside the building, though all tickets to see Santa have sold out. Buddy the Elf and The Grinch will join us on the day and the Market’s Christmas Trail returns with families able to spot cuddly toys in Standish shop windows as they walk around the village.

People can take advantage of a free Park And Ride using a shuttle bus from My Life car park at Thompson House on Pepper Lane and The Crown at Worthington’s car park to and from Market Place between 11am and 5pm. This should help to reduce the need for people to drive so please use it or leave your car at home. Also, Cross Street and Market Place will be closed to traffic throughout the day, with a diversion in place, apart from access by residents and businesses.

Meanwhile, please support the Market by buying a ticket in our Prize Draw! There are £900-worth of prizes up for grabs and tickets are a very reasonable £1.

Once again, Standish’s local businesses have been amazing and donated some fantastic prizes with all money raised going to the Christmas Market.

The prizes include three separate vouchers for Copper Vines restaurant; a meal for six and smoker tour at the new Hickory’s Smokehouse – due to open early in 2025; two vouchers for Standish Styling Opticians, vouchers from La Mama, Tim’s La Mama, Harwoods, Time For Me, Simply Beautiful and Gels by Michelle. Potters Bar and The Globe pub have each thrown in a bottle of booze.

Tickets are only bought online so please click here to buy one here tinyurl.com/SCMprizedraw

**Want a unique celebration of our wonderful village?**

Standish Voice has commissioned one of the North West’s best-selling artists to create a poster of Standish – and a huge, one-off, signed version is up for grabs in an auction to raise money for St Wilfrid’s Church Spire Appeal.

Eric Jackson has created dozens of humorous retro travel posters of places across the North West, including Wigan and Leigh, and has now painted one for Standish to raise money for the restoration of the church spire.

His affectionate artwork – commissioned by Standish Voice – features the medieval church and iconic spire, celebrating ‘Stylish Standish’ as ‘the high point’ of Wigan, with it being ‘a-spire-ational but not stand-off-ish!’.

The tongue-in-cheek poster celebrating our village can also be bought in various sizes, framed and unframed – and would make a great Christmas present, with part of the profits going to Save Standish Spire appeal.

Eric has also created a one-off A1 version of the poster, on canvas and framed under glass and signed by him which you can bid for. If you or your business would like to offer a bid for the painting – which Eric is pictured holding and which would retail for at least £200 – please email St Wilfrid’s Church parish office on stwilfridsparish@outlook.com

To buy one of the Standish posters, which come framed and unframed in sizes ranging from A4 to A1, the parish office will send you the costings, which include postage and packing.

Eric said: “When I heard that this beautiful, historic building desperately needed funds for renovation, I knew I had to help. I’ve made dozens of paintings of communities in Greater Manchester and beyond, including Wigan, but not Standish, and when I was approached by Standish Voice to create one, it seemed the best way to support this great project.”

**Planning refusals were due to Standish Neighbourhood Plan**

Standish Neighbourhood Plan has been cited as a reason behind the refusal of two planning applications linked to new housing in the village.

Standish Voice recently successfully argued that the two applications – one for Chorley Road and one for Pepper Lane – breached policies in Standish Neighbourhood Plan and Wigan planning committee turned them down.

Now, refusal notices have been posted telling the developers why the plans were thrown out and they detail Standish Neighbourhood Plan policies which would have been breached.

Standish Voice expects the developers to appeal against the decisions in the coming months and a Government planning inspector will decide on them.

The planning committee agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan – created by Standish Voice and passed at referendum in 2019 by 93% of voters – needed to be upheld. Wigan Council will now have to defend the refusals if and when they are appealed.

You can read the refusal notice for Pepper Lane here - <http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Pepper-Lane-refusal-doc.pdf> - and for Chorley Road here - <http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Chorley-Road-refusal-document.pdf>

**Do you know someone who may be alone at Christmas?**

Are you or someone you know in Standish planning to spend Christmas Day alone this year? Why not join in with a community Christmas Dinner at St Wilfrid’s Parish Hall? Meet new people and have a lovely festive lunch. To book your place, please contact Helen on 07747 883006. Transport can be arranged

**Heritage Officer sought by church**

Standish St Wilfrid’s Church is looking for a Heritage Engagement Officer to help in the project to Save Standish Spire.

The church wants tenders for the role which is helping the project to renovate the church spire but also increase access by the community to the church and help to explain the heritage of the building to the wider population. The Officer would begin in January and their work would continue until December 2025.

The church says: “This project is more than repairing the spire. It is the catalyst to increase our reach to our community, to make St Wilfrid’s more widely known, as a place for worship, place of peace and reflection, and important historic asset and community facility.

“As people engage more fully with the building and its history, so will their understanding and appreciation for its significance and value to our community, both then and now.”

The church has been given a grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund for the project which is being used alongside fundraising from the community and some of the church’s own funds.

You can read more about the role and how to apply here: <http://www.standishvoice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/St-Wilfrid-Standish-Heritage-Engagement-Officer-Brief-Nov__-24.docx>