

## St. Aidan's Church Aug 1<sup>st</sup>

Hub Leader	Rev Jeremy Thomas	On Sabbatical	
Ass. Hub Leader	Rev Sue Fulford	01942 242369	ahl.south@churchwigan.org
Reader	Helen Steele	01744 894111	hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk
Reader in Training	Lesley Leppard	01744 892713	Ring between 7pm and 9pm please
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### **Bible Passage for 2021:**

**' Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.'** (Philippians 4:6-7)



### **Continuing updates**

In this holiday period I will send an update every 2<sup>nd</sup> week. The next update will therefore be due the weekend of August 15<sup>th</sup> . If you wish any news to be included I need it by August 11<sup>th</sup> please .

### **Church of England**

The House of Bishops met on Monday 26th of July 2021 via Zoom. Topics included (a) The Bishop of London, in her capacity as Chair of the Recovery Group (now concluded) updated the House on what is now permissible since 19th of July and confirmed that she and her colleagues will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation carefully as it continues to evolve. (b) The potential implications for Anglican - Methodist ecumenical relations following the decision of the July Methodist Conference to permit same-sex marriages to take place in Methodist churches. The House agreed to seek advice on the matter from the Episcopal Reference Group of the Faith and Order Commission, with the House noting the need also to engage with the Archbishops' Council.

### **Surf Stage Festival - Family Fun and Worship**

On Saturday 31st July there is a Family Fun Day & Christian Music Festival at Alder Lane Playing Fields, Parbold. It will start at 11am with a worship celebration, followed by live stream of New Wine teaching. The family fun will start at 1 and continue until 6pm with many different activities, such as a Heart Smart robot building workshop, face and nail painting and much more! There will be live worship throughout the afternoon. Parking is available nearby for £5. The day will finish with Worship Celebration at 7pm followed by live stream of New Wine teaching.

### **New Wine - United Breaks Out**

This year New Wine have taken a step of faith and are offering all of their celebrations, youth and children's programmes, and their Accessible Church stream, **without charge**. They hope that churches and individual Christians will be able to gather round these

offerings to receive **healing, encouragement and fresh vision** to serve the nation as we begin the process of recovery. You can find what is on offer at [Programme - United Breaks Out \(new-wine.org\)](https://www.new-wine.org/Programme-United-Breaks-Out). There are also additional sessions that can be accessed through [Digital Hub - New Wine \(new-wine.org\)](https://www.new-wine.org/Digital-Hub-New-Wine). This costs £70 per person but does include other sessions during the year as well as the teaching offered during this week.

## **Parish News**

Contrary to the rumour that I have heard recently St. Aidan's Church is **not** in danger of closing! These types of rumour are hurtful and very unhelpful. If you hear someone saying this please let them know that although there have been changes from what we had a few years ago there is still a strong group supporting and passionate about St. Aidan's church.

Our service of Holy Communion at St. Aidan's on **Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup>** begins at 9.30am. Each Holy Communion Service is always taken by an ordained minister. This is a part of the Church of England laws, and nothing has changed. This Sunday it will be taken by Rev Neil Cook. It will follow some restrictions to keep the church Covid safe. You may also join one of the **worship services** given below or use the printed service sheet attached.

The services of Morning Prayer on **Sunday Aug 8<sup>th</sup>** and **Aug 15<sup>th</sup>** begin at 9.30am. You may book for these services by ringing Roy on 01744 894738 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9.30am on Monday Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> respectively, though this is no longer essential (see St Aidan's Services, below)

### **St Andrew's phone in service**

A traditional service at 9.30 each Sunday run by St Andrew's. To join them, please phone 0203 794 0272 and use Conference ID 772 710 483# (don't forget the # at the end) Please don't press anything after this and ignore the automated voice about muting/unmuting.

### **Church Wigan Morning and Evening Prayer**

At 9am and 9pm each day (apart from Sunday mornings) live on the Church Wigan Facebook page . <https://facebook.com/ChurchWigan>. There is a speaker at 7pm on Sunday evening, again on Facebook Live. There are also daily reflections on the Church Wigan website and Facebook page for further details see <https://transformingwigan.wordpress.com/>

The Hub Zoom service is no longer available, as all Hub churches now have established morning services. However if you are isolating and wish to tune in to a live online service from the hub you may join the 10.45 am service from St. Thomas' Church.

The service at St Thomas' will be broadcast live on Facebook and you can join using this link <https://fb.me/e/1bGxlesw0> The live stream will begin at around 10:30am in good time to allow you to get setup for the beginning of the service. The service will **only stream live and you will not be able to watch it later on**. Please be aware that this will currently be a very "low tech" stream using very basic equipment so don't expect broadcast quality!

Once the new AV system is fully installed, they will be able to offer a much better quality live stream.

### **St Aidan's services :**

Although we cannot legally insist on any restrictions, in the interests of loving and respecting our church family we are strongly urging people to continue to follow certain preventative practices. They are designed to keep people safe and to provide reassurance for those who are nervous about the changes in social distancing. None of these measures can be demanded or enforced, but they are written into our Risk assessment.

Our **New Risk assessment** enables us to seat up to 60 worshippers, and this is many more than has been attending recently. Therefore we have decided that for normal weekly services there will be no need to pre-book a place in order to be able to attend. Seats will not be pre-allocated before the service. However we are still advised to keep a record of attendees for NHS Test and Trace. If each person entering completes the Test and Trace form from scratch we could have long queues in place each Sunday! Therefore we are using a number of methods of reducing this risk:

1. Each Sunday, after the service, you can complete the Test and Trace Record for the next Sunday to show your intention to attend. If you are unable to come, it doesn't matter, we can just cross it out. When you attend the next week you will simply need to give your time of entry and tick to say that you understand that this record will only be used if we are contacted by Test and Trace, it will be kept securely, and your details will be used for no other purposes. The list will be destroyed 21 days after the event.
2. You could still ring Roy before the service to add your contact details
3. If you have the required app on your phone you can register as you enter using our new QR code which is placed to the left of the inner doors at the main entrance. You will still need to be counted, but not to sign in.

You will still be requested to gel your hands, to wear a face mask and to use social distancing - we are using alternate rows and we ask you to leave 2 seats between each bubble. Books and sheets will not be given out, to reduce risk of contamination, all words will be on the screen. If you wish to use a bible, please bring one with you.

Unite in Prayer - If you missed out on the **Day of Prayer** on July 24<sup>th</sup> to discern where God is leading us in Worship, Mission and Ministry at this crucial time in our lives you can still access the prayer points in order to pray. Contact Helen to ask for an email copy, or contact her to arrange for a paper copy of the prayer points to be sent out.

### **Men's clothing needed**

We have appealed in church and on our facebook page for clothing for young men. There is a recent surge in demand in the Wigan area for clothing for male asylum seekers aged 18 - 35. These young men have only the clothes they arrived in and are desperately in

need of help. Suitable clothing would be jeans, joggers, hoodies, tea shirts and trainers. Tracey organised a collection last week, but if you can still help, please contact SWAP on 01942 516572. They are located at Penson St Community Centre, WN1 2LP.

**Church Magazine:** The magazine will be in a new format when it starts. It will give articles and information from all of the Hub Churches. They are hoping it will start in September. However at present we still have no-one who is willing to co-ordinate this on behalf of St. Aidan's. We need someone who is willing to collect the information needed (e.g. give me a nudge for the dates and times of services) and any articles that parishioners may wish to share, and send them to the Hub editor. (This can all be done by email). The magazines will be printed and sent to our church. No price has yet been given. We need another person to receive the magazines and make up the delivery packs. This co-ordinator would also liaise with the distributors, e.g. ensure that they are still willing to deliver. Unless someone is willing to take on these jobs I am sorry to say that we will not be able to resume the distribution of magazines. Please contact Helen if you are willing to take on either or both of these roles.

At St. Aidan's we manage on a **Team** basis. We have some fantastic teams who are already doing a great job.! But some of our members are taking more strain than they should! We are all a part of the body of Christ. To maintain our church and take it forward **we need to build our teams**. We need someone with a special interest in the Church building, who will help the assistant wardens in practical ways; to grow our Pastoral Care Team as needs vastly outweigh the reduced size of the team; an enlarged stewarding team to allow opening for more services; a help for church cleaning; someone to supervise the cleaning of children's toys after a service (so that we can allow them to be used again); the re-establishment of refreshments teams when it is suitable to restart these activities. We would welcome singer and musicians to join the music team for selected services. Can you help? Contact Helen and she will put you in touch with the appropriate team.

We wish Dorothy Thompson a **Happy Birthday** for next week and James Twist for the following week.

### **Prayer for the Parish**

Joanne Aspinall thanks us for our prayers. She is convalescing at home. Lorraine Webb was making good initial progress, but a recent scan has revealed a secondary brain tumour. Please keep Lorraine and the family in your prayers as they come to terms with this news.

If anyone needs to be added to our prayer list please let Helen or Margaret Stott know. The family must give permission for any name to be added to the list. I will only share the reason if you give your consent to this too.

Please pray by name for Lorraine Webb, Eileen Lloyd, Les Parkinson, May Carnforth, Jennie Silcock, Darren Buckley, Julia and Michael Pratt, Rose Widdop . And we

remember the bereaved - the family and friends of Jack Winnard, Julie Steward and Kate Gee.

For confidential prayer needs contact Jennifer Berry for the Mother's Union Prayer circle (01942 389715).

I attach notes for this week's collects and readings for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Sundays after Trinity, which you may use at home, or share it on the phone with friends or family.



Please pray for

- the safety, rest and recovery of all those who have managed to get away on holiday that they may be energised for the months ahead
- those who desperately need a break but are unable to get away
- Wisdom for Government and other agencies and businesses to make and communicate effective decisions to strengthen our economy without forfeiting safety
- those affected by aspects of climate change, extremes of weather, loss of homes, livelihoods and habitat
- the dangers and disasters throughout the world that do not feature on our news because they are overshadowed by our own difficulties
- the continued, fair and effective deployment of Covid Vaccines throughout the world, that our lives may no longer be dominated by it

A Prayer by Ted Loder:

Oh God, gather me to be with you as you are with me. Soothe my tiredness; quiet my fretfulness; curb my aimlessness; relieve my compulsiveness; let me be easy for a moment. O Lord, release me from the fears and guilts which grip me so tightly; from the expectations and opinions which I so tightly grip, that I may be open to receiving what you give, to risking something genuinely new, to learning something refreshingly different. O God, gather me to be with you as you are with me. Amen