

## St. Aidan's Church

Aug 15<sup>th</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
Hub Admin	Sue Thomas	01942 727275	hubadmin.south@churchwigan.org

### **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 29<sup>th</sup>. If you wish any news to be included I need it by August 25<sup>th</sup> please.

### **Church of England**

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, the Church of England's lead bishop for the environment, said: "The message of today's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report is loud and clear: 'Wake up world!'

"It is time to stop playing political games and take action now. We are already seeing the effects of the climate emergency around the world - and it is the world's economically poorest people who are already suffering the most. So it is our moral duty and a Christian calling to do all we can to try to turn the tide. In just a few months at COP26 there will be an opportunity to act, our leaders must seize this moment and deliver real and impactful change for the future of God's creation.

"We don't have a spare Earth - this is our precious home."

### **Parish News**

We have agreed that we need to be kind and to keep one another safe! 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 preventative practices designed to keep people safe and to provide reassurance for those who are nervous about the changes in social distancing.

Our service of Morning Prayer at St. Aidan's on **Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup>** begins at 9.30am. You may also join one of the **worship services** given below or use the printed service sheet attached.

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.

The services of Morning Prayer on **Sunday Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>** and **Aug 29<sup>th</sup>** begin at 9.30am. You are no longer required to pre-book to attend these services. However you will need to complete our Test and Trace form with your name and contact details before coming into church, or use the QR code on entering church if your phone has the appropriate app.

**St Andrew's phone in service** and Church Wigan Morning and Evening Prayer will continue into the foreseeable future.

The Hub Zoom service is no longer available, as most churches now have established morning services. However if you are isolating and wish to tune in to an online service you may join the 10.45 am service from St. Thomas' Church. It will be broadcast live on their Facebook page using <http://www.facebook.com/stthomasstluke/>  
The live stream will begin at around 10:30am in good time to allow you to get setup for the beginning of the service.

Many **thanks** to Peter Hughes for playing our hymns last week, and to Roy Lawrence who is playing this week while Dawn is having a well deserved holiday.!

#### **Results of the Service Survey:**

A total of 47 surveys were completed, some electronically, others on paper. The results are anonymous, each given a number.

There were few surprises in the preferences for services. The Common Worship Holy Communion service from 2000, was the most popular service, followed by Holy Communion from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. [We are dependent on the availability of clergy to enable this provision. It is hoped that once Jeremy is back from his Sabbatical and Sue Fulford has taken her holiday that we may be able to have more than one such service a month.]

We have at least 2 different congregations at St. Aidan's - one substantial group which exclusively values and desire the traditional services, with traditional hymns, and another substantial group which selected less formal worship such as the family and contemporary services. A substantial number valued a range of hymns and songs. During the last 16 months this latter group of people have been unable to attend this sort of service, and the balance needs to be redressed in the future. A further group selected from the full range of these services, one saying that they wish to worship with all of St. Aidan's people.

Over half of the respondents would like to see refreshments and a time of fellowship after the services. This will not be practical at present because of the restrictions on serving drinks, but we would like to introduce this as soon as it is practical.

A huge thank you to those who added extra comments which were very helpful in identifying a range of issues to be addressed over the coming months.

More detailed results can be obtained from Helen (hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk)

**Planning for the Stork** - As a 'neighbour' of the Stork we have received a letter from St Helen's Council Planning Committee inviting us to view the latest proposals for building on the site of the Stork. This involves the conversion and extension of the existing building into 18 apartments with parking being accessed from Main Street, where the bus stop currently is. There will be no entry to the site from Newton Road. A wall is proposed to match that of our Church wall. In response to public opinion, the façade of the building will remain and an extension in a modern style of building built parallel to Newton Road. The development will not encroach on the War memorial. Because of Coronavirus the Council are unable to provide hard copies of the plans. This information can be viewed on <http://publicaccess.sthelens.gov.uk/online-applications> Any comments must be submitted to the Council by August 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Church Committee have looked at the application. Our main concerns have been addressed by many. The loss of parking will affect our accessibility for services. However we have only ever been able to park here by the goodwill of previous landlords. We have no rights over this area. Any comment to the planning committee over this would not be deemed a relevant argument.

On August 29<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating **St. Aidan's Day** - look out for further details in our next update!

**St Aidan's services** : From late September we will be making changes to our services for a trial period of 6 months, in line with the **service Survey** and the **availability of volunteers** to Steward and be Venue Managers at those services. We extend a grateful thanks to all of those who work tirelessly in this way to permit us to have these services. Sta's4all will be restarted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the month and a family style service named the Beacon will be introduced on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. In order to extend to more than one service on these Sundays we need a few **more Venue Managers and Stewards!** Could you volunteer? Please contact Peter Hughes on 01744 732890 or Helen can pass on your details to him.

**Holy Communion on Wednesdays** at 10am will commence from 1<sup>st</sup> September, alternating between Holy Trinity and St. Aidan's. It will be held at Holy Trinity on the first and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday's of the month and St. Aidan's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month.

On **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September** there will be a service of Holy Communion at 9.30am at St. Aidan's. This will be taken by Rev Jeremy Thomas - as he returns from his Sabbatical. The time of this service may be changed from the following month.

As we get back to a fuller schedule of services I will have to consider whether the production of the **printed service sheet** each week is still required. A number of people have told me over the past 16 months that they have used this on a Sunday to have a service with family or a friend, but I also know that many do not use it. If you would **like to continue to receive** this service sheet please email me or contact me to let me know. I will make a decision about retaining this provision in the next few weeks. If I do not hear from you by September 8<sup>th</sup> I will assume that you do not wish to receive this.

So far no-one has volunteered to help with co-ordinating a **church magazine**. This may mean that no church magazine is available to distribute for our parish. Some of our hub churches place the monthly magazine on their website so that it can be downloaded. Would you like that?

I am so pleased to say that Rose Widdop is home, the surgery has gone well, and Rose thanks us for our prayers. We continue to think of her as she recovers at home. Both Michael and Julia Pratt are home from hospital after a successful kidney transplant. The healing process begins for them. Michael, as recipient, has no immunity, so has to isolate, but the family are so pleased to have him home.

We wish Lorraine Webb a **Happy Birthday** for next week

### **Prayer for the Parish**

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.

This week we add Margaret Peacock to our prayer list. She is shortly to have major surgery. We pray for her and her daughter Sarah.

Please pray by name for 3 year old Archie Cunliffe, Lorraine Webb, Les Parkinson, May Carnforth, Jennie Silcock, Darren Buckley, Julia and Michael Pratt and Margaret Peacock. And we remember the bereaved - the family and friends of Eileen Lloyd.

Please pray for those people who have received their exam results this week, that those who are disappointed will find a positive route despite their disappointment and that all will have wisdom and confidence for the new paths ahead of them. Also for church members to come forward to assist in the many tasks required to keep church functioning to the glory of God and the benefit of the Parish.

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 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<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

- Wisdom and grace to be displayed by all church leaders, that Christ's love may be seen and experienced in every community
- God's wisdom and compassion to be displayed by all world leaders, especially in this country, in Afghanistan and in areas of conflict that all may know peace and justice
- those who are fighting the fires across Europe and those combatting the devastating effects of the surge in temperatures
- increasing awareness of all that we can do to help our environment and treat our world with respect
- all those who are still affected by the Covid infections, the medical staff and the families affected by illness, the loss of loved ones, and the strain on medical services
- wisdom for all of us as we seek to return to a more normal life, yet are aware of the need to remain vigilant in precautions against infection for our own protection and for the protection of others
- those who are suffering from anxiety, depression, loneliness or abuse

A Prayer by Steven Wild:

Almighty God, You are present in all places, town and county, this is Your world; help us to be mindful of all You have given us to care for. Help us to show our discipleship by recycling and reusing whenever we can. Please God, we want to recycle our lives: may we experience the renewing grace of Your Son and the rejuvenation of Your Holy Spirit and may gifts and virtues that have become tired or overlooked be reused. O God, renew our faith and holiness that we may be refreshed, blessed and transformed into the Christians you want us to be. Amen