

St. Aidan's Church Aug 29th

Hub Leader	Rev Jeremy Thomas	01942 727275	hubleader.south@churchwigan.org
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

We welcome back Rev. Jeremy Thomas from his Sabbatical and look forward to his ministry to us. We also welcome Rev. Sue Thomas who begins her curacy in our Hub in September

Remembering St Aidan's Day - August 31st:

'Jesus said to them "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations....'
(Matthew 28:18-19)



Continuing updates

At present I am sending an update every 2nd week. The next update will therefore be due the weekend of September 12th. If you wish any news to be included I need it by September 8th please.

World News

The earthquake that struck Haiti on 14 August 2021, of magnitude 7.2 was the deadliest such event worldwide since the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake. Aid is vital, and time is of the essence. People have lost their homes, their livelihoods and many have lost friends and family. Heavy rains from Tropical Storm Grace have led to additional landslides and flooding, further impacting rescue operations and efforts to reach more rural areas. St. Aidan's began a collection last Sunday in church for the International Red Cross (IFRC) who are responding in the affected areas. Teams are on the ground providing **urgent support** to the vast numbers of families that need first aid, shelter, emergency healthcare and hygiene kits.

There will be a plate for donation at the 9.30am service on Sunday Aug 29th Or you may donate on line at <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/haiti-earthquake-appeal>

Thank you to all who donated items to the **Afghan Refugee appeal** at St. Aidan's School Car Park on Tuesday. A huge amount of donations has shown the generosity of the people of Billinge.

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 special **service for St. Aidan's Day** will start at 9.30am this Sunday August 29th.

Our service of Holy Communion at St. Aidan's on **Sunday September 5th** also begins at 9.30am. 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. You may also join one of the **Phone service from St. Andrew's worship services** or use the printed service sheet attached.

You will still be requested to gel your hands, to wear a face mask and use social distancing - we are using alternate rows and we ask you to leave 2 seats between each bubble. All words will be on the screen. If you wish to use a bible, please bring one with you.

The service of Morning Prayer on **Sunday Sep 12th** begins at 9.30am.

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 from the hub you may join the 10.45 am Family Service from St. Thomas' Church from 10.40pm The service will be broadcast live on Facebook and you can join using this link: <https://www.stthomasstluke.org.uk/online/>

Please pray for **Sue Fulford** who is currently on Sick Leave. She is still experiencing some difficulties following her Covid infection. A big thank you to Rev Sue Thomas who stepped in to cover the scheduled Baptism service.

Future St Aidan's services : Changes are to be made from late September 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. Sta's4all and a Beacon service are to be introduced for those who like a more modern service. We still seek some extra volunteers to enable us to extend to more than one service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month, to retain a traditional service each week! Could you volunteer? Please contact Peter Hughes on 01744 732890. More details of the future pattern next time, when we hope to have confirmed the extra services!

Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10am will now commence from 8th September, alternating between St. Aidan's and Holy Trinity. It will be held at St. Aidan's on September 8th and at Holy Trinity on September 15th. (Owing to Sue Fulford being on Sick leave there will be no Holy Communion at Holy Trinity on September 1st.)

As we get back to a fuller schedule of services I will have to consider whether the production of the **printed Sunday service sheets** each week is still required. (Not the

update). 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 decisions in the next few weeks. If I do not hear from you by September 8th I will assume that you do not wish to receive this.

A new style of church magazine is being developed and will shortly be available to pick up from church. It is being printed centrally in the Hub. Because of holidays there has been a little delay in the preparation and printing, so it will not be ready for collection until September 12th. Much of the information in each magazine will be common to all of our Hub churches, but it will also carry our own specific information such as points of contact, any local news to St. Aidan's and they would welcome contributions from school and other groups. The cost is likely to be 60p, though this is still being investigated. Sandra Ferry is working hard to try to re-establish delivery for those who want it. A big thank you to those who have delivered magazines for us in the past, and a particular thank you to those who are able to continue. When the magazine is up and running smoothly I will scale down and may stop producing these updates.

Zoom Toddler Church restarts after the summer break on Wednesday 8th September at 10 am. This is for pre-school children with their parents or carers. If you know any carers of pre-school children that may wish to be included please email Harry to receive an 'invitation' harrywareing@talktalk.net

The work to adapt some rooms and spaces at **School** has fallen behind schedule. Please pray that the work will be completed in time for the staff to set up the changed rooms before the children return on September 6th

Envoy - Here's a great and most encompassing way of learning and engaging in evangelism. The course is offered by Church Army and is free, but you need to sign up in September ready to begin in October. For more details click on the link below or ring Kelvin Bolton for more details (01942 583273). <https://churcharmy.org/growing-faith/envoy/>.

Prayer Event - 11th September from 10 to 11.30 a.m. Wigan South will be hosting a Wigan House of Prayer event at St Thomas' church. Everyone with a heart to pray for Wigan and its surrounding towns and communities is welcome to join. Why not bring a friend. (If you do intend to join in please let Carol Foster know so that she has an idea of numbers. 01942 733263)

Congratulations to Hanaka Peers on her A level results and gaining a place at her chosen university. We wish her well when she goes away. Please say a little prayer for the Peers family - Yumiko is still awaiting a flight home from visiting the family in Japan when her father sadly died.

Congratulations also to Jennie Silcock, celebrating the birth of her great great granddaughter Evelyn Alice who arrive 5 weeks earlier than expected but is doing well.

We wish a **Happy Birthday** for next week to Brenda Williams, and the following week to Susan Garside. Congratulations also to Tracey and Mike Holland who celebrate their wedding anniversary.

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.

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

Please pray for those re-establishing the Church magazine, volunteers to enable a range of church services and the timely completion of the school alterations.

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 13th and 14th Sundays after Trinity, which you may use at home, or share it on the phone with friends or family.



Please pray for

- All in leadership positions that they may be equipped through God's grace with the skills they need and time to deliver their responsibilities
- The ongoing situation in Afghanistan and the safety of those at risk
- The recovery of Haiti after the earthquake
- Wisdom for all as we continue to battle against the Covid infections to protect ourselves and others
- 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
- all those who have other illnesses, especially those who are trying to hide their difficulties from 'the world'.
- those who are suffering from anxiety, depression, loneliness or abuse

A Prayer by Hildegard of Bingen (1098 - 1179):

God of gentle ebb and flow, in wonder, we stand on the sea edge of your dawning future; surrendering ourselves and our kingdom efforts into the immense sea of your love and infinite possibility. Draw us through new doorways to live out the hope, love and justice you kindle within us. In the name of the surprising God of love and joy, we offer our prayers. Amen.