

'The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective'
(James 5:16)

Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.' (Matthew 7:7)



Hub Clergy:

Rev Sue Fulford has come home from hospital into the care of the Community teams. This may last for a long period, but praise God she is showing some signs of improvement.

Magazines:

Contrary to our previous practice each monthly magazine will now normally be published for the first Sunday in the month and will be distributed shortly after this. i.e. do not expect the magazine for October before October 3rd! The cost is 60p per issue. It is printed in black and white though it can be seen for free in glorious technicolour on our website. staidanbillinge.org.uk

I am still collecting and sending the articles for St. Aidan's to the editor, but I wish to hand this over to someone with more free time as soon as possible - could you help? Please contact me (Helen Steele) using the contact details above.

We are trying to reduce waste and wish to purchase only the magazines required. If you had your magazine delivered but now wish to use the on-line version please contact Sandra Ferry on 893423, or the person who delivers your magazine as soon as possible.

Service practices:

Rates of Covid infections and death still remain higher than acceptable. 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. In church you will still be requested to gel your hands, to wear a face mask and to use social distancing.

Services:

On October 3rd there is a **Holy Communion service** at 9.30am

On **October 10th** our plans have changed. There will be no Sta's4all event at school. We must wait to see what happens to the infections rates at school. **If there are no new cases** of Covid we aim to have the cancelled **Beacon Commissioning Service** for school at 10am on that date. This will mean very short notice of the service. You will need to pre-book - please email Helen (Preferably), or give me a ring to express our wish. I will confirm to all who give me contact details as soon as we know whether the service will take place.

There will also be a **Harvest Festival** service of Evening Prayer in church at **4pm** on October 10th. Because of current health risks we are asking that any Harvest gifts should be of wrapped/tinned items with a good shelf-life. Sadly the Pastoral Care team

is not able to distribute the gifts this year, so these will be distributed through The Hope Centre in St. Helen's which supports needy people of Billinge and Seneley Green through their food bank.

October 17th - 10am Morning Worship,

The following services will remain available - please see previous updates for details: St Andrew's phone in service, Church Wigan Morning and Evening Prayer, 10.45 am Family Service from St. Thomas' Church from 10.40pm

The Care Team are beginning to invite people to **Services of Remembering Loved Ones**. As numbers in church continue to be limited the family and friends of those who have died before April 2020 will be invited to the service on 31st October. Other services will follow in November and 2022. Please wait for an invitation to these events.

Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10am will alternate between St. Aidan's and Holy Trinity. (Providing Jeremy is not unavailable). There is a question mark on the venue of this next service on October 6th. If you intend to come I suggest that you contact me to confirm whether it is at St. Aidan's or Holy Trinity

Following the series of reflections in September for **Church Wigan Month of Vision** we end our series by praying together for God's vision to come to fruition in this area. Last time I gave you some prayer topics on this theme which you can continue to use over a period of time. The remainder of this update concentrates on Prayer!, starting with the story of a Prayer Champion - George Müller

George Müller was born in the Prussian village of Kroppenstaedt. While at university a friend took him to a Bible study. The experience affected him deeply and He chose to follow Jesus. George became passionate about reading the Bible and bringing every need to God in prayer. When he graduated in 1829 he moved to England to train for missionary work.

In 1832 George and his wife Mary moved with a friend to Bristol to lead Bethesda Chapel. Soon after they founded the Scriptural Knowledge Institution which supported missionaries, distributed Bibles, and educated adults and children. A few years later, George was disturbed by the increasing number of children who had been orphaned and made homeless by the cholera epidemic, so he decided to open an orphanage.

For 5 months George prayed for the people and provision he needed. God answered his prayer and the first home opened on Wilson Street in Bristol. Over the following 6 years three more homes were opened in the same street and over 100 children were cared for. The neighbours started to complain, so, in 1846, George asked God whether he should build a large orphanage in a more rural area. After discerning that God wanted him to do it, George prayed for the then huge sum of £10,000 to buy land. George made a habit of not telling people about the financial needs, instead he brought his need to God alone. By the following year George's prayers were answered and building work began.

Ashley Down Orphanage opened in 1849 and welcomed 300 children but within two years George had a waiting list of children, so he prayed for the funds to build a second orphanage, then a third,

a fourth, and a fifth. By 1870 over 2000 children were at Ashley Downs and each one was receiving an education. This attracted criticism from some who felt that George was elevating the lower classes above their proper station!

After years of experience trusting in God George Müller shared this advice for younger believers :

“Be slow to take new steps in the Lord’s service, or in your business, or in your families: weigh everything well; weigh all in the light of the Holy Scriptures and in the fear of God. Seek to have no will of your own, in order to ascertain the mind of God, regarding any steps you propose taking, so that you can honestly say you are willing to do the will of God, if He will only please to instruct you. But when you have found out what the will of God is, seek for His help, and seek it earnestly, perseveringly, patiently, believingly, expectantly; and you will surely in His own time and way obtain it.” (Andrew Murray, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, p273)

“George Müller was asked, ‘What is the secret of your service to God?’ His response was this: “There was a day when I died, utterly died, died to George Müller. His opinions, preferences, tastes and will ... died to the world, its approval and censure ... died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends ... and since then I have studied to show myself approved only to God. A servant of God has but one Master.’ (Andrew Murray, *George Müller and the Secret of his Power in Prayer* (PDF) p4)

A prayer

Thank You Father for loving me with all Your heart, all Your soul and all Your mind.

Inspire me this week to love You more with all of mine.

Thank You Jesus for Your faithful and sacrificial friendship. Help me this week to be a faithful and sacrificial friend like You.

Thank You Holy Spirit for listening to my many thoughts and words and dreams. Still my soul this week to listen much more carefully to Yours.

We join with other churches in South Hub using the prayer ideas overleaf for the weeks ahead. St. Aidan’s church believes that Prayer changes things! Please pencil into your diary Wednesdays in October at 7pm to pray together, but at home, for the mission and outreach of our church and for our community and for God’s VISION to come to fruition within South Hub and Wigan.



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. The list that has been on these updates is also used in church services.

Please pray by name for Lorraine Webb, Les Parkinson, May Carnforth, Darren Buckley, Sue Fulford, Yvonne Cumberbirch and Paul Brookes. And we remember the bereaved - the family and friends of Christine Hilton.

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

Coffee cup prayers to pray whilst the kettle is boiling. Jeremiah 29:12 "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you".

SUNDAY (and every day)

Dear Lord Jesus, pour out your Spirit of Renewal on your disciples across Wigan and surrounding towns and communities. Guide our steps as we seek your transformation for ourselves, our churches and the communities we serve. May we glorify your name and see your kingdom grow now and forever. Amen

MONDAY

Lord we pray to you in the knowledge that when things seem 'dry' your purpose is good and to make all things new. We ask today for you to send your Holy Spirit to help us find these 'dry' place and to change them to new 'wells' of refreshment to flourish and know your many blessings.

TUESDAY

We pray Lord for our worshipping communities. Those who have planted a rich heritage of faithfulness and we ask you to give us grace, wisdom and energy to continue in their footsteps. Help us Lord to be guided by our communities, to see where we can 'dig wells' for 'heaven to touch earth'

WEDNESDAY

Lord we pray for encouragement for one another. For us to see how we individually can use our 'gifts' and calling to bring about 'heaven touching earth'. Lord we pray especially for those who feel powerless, lonely, afraid. Give us courage Lord to reach these people so everyone feels valued and loved.

THURSDAY

Lord we thank you that we can bring all our worries and concerns to you in prayer. We thank you Lord for the gift of the Holy Spirit who brings comfort and instruction. Help us Lord when times are difficult, when we meet opposing opinions. Give us patience and the gift of love to listen and to encourage one another.

FRIDAY

Today we pray for our Hub: Holy Trinity, St Andrews, St Aidan's, St Luke's, St Peters and St Thomas'. We pray that the Church Wigan vision will guide our congregations. Help us Lord to see your vision and to join in with unity to work together as one Church. Help us Lord to share ideas, prayers and collective worship.

SATURDAY

We pray for our communities; the streets where we live, we pray for opportunities to serve our wider community, linking with our schools, shops and businesses. Help us Lord to encourage new relationships.

"The parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom" Isaiah 35.1

Praying for your neighbourhood:

You can print out this Prayer, and blessing for the neighbourhood. Cut the top half of this page off and fold it with the prayer on one side and blessing on the other.

As you walk to shops or walk in your street, pray for your community using this prayer and blessing.

A prayer for your street, for your neighbours for your town.

Almighty God I pray for all my neighbours /community that they would come to know you. I pray they would know your love and peace.

Father God may the transforming power of Your presence cover this street. I pray that crime would reduce, the community would be built up and that Your light would shine in every home.

May Your Kingdom come and Your will

A Blessing

In the Name of Jesus, I bless the relationships between old and young, in this community, that they might be full of joy and compassion. I bless every family so that parents and children and partners, may grow today in love, mercy, tenderness and strength. In the Name of Jesus, I bless the friendships of this community, that they would be shaped by him, full of honesty, forgiveness, and generosity of spirit, through the testing times and the times when all seems well. I bless you, both the lonely and proud,