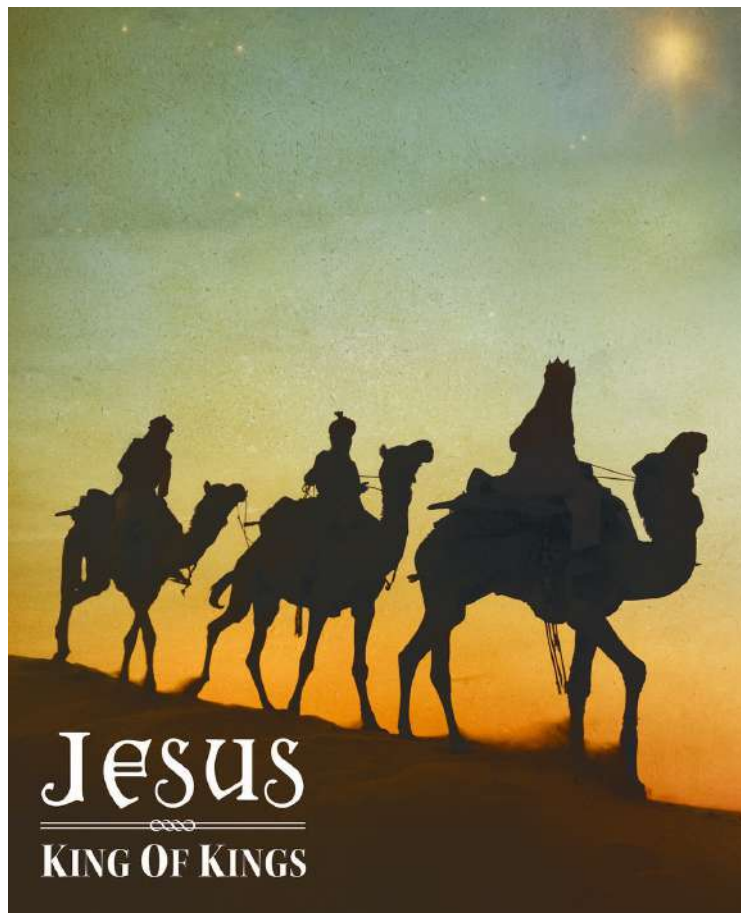


# Wigan South Parish Magazine

- Holy Trinity
- St Andrew's
- St Peter's
- St Aidan's
- St Luke's
- St Thomas'

St Aidan's edition



January 2022

60p

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# Parish Information

## Baptisms

Baptisms are held around the Parish throughout the month. To qualify for baptism parents should live within the parish boundaries or be a regular worshipper at one of the worship communities within the Parish. Godparents should have been baptised and be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session with the parents.

## Funerals

Every parishioner has the right to a service in church, followed by a committal.

## Marriage

You can marry in a CofE Church of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met.

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If you would like further information or to book a funeral, wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine

# Magazine Deadlines

Please send any material for the magazine to your local assistant editor (see contact details at the back) or [magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk).

	February	March	April
Deadline for material	20 January	17 February	17 March
Publish date	30 January	27 February	27 March

# The New Year

A decorative border at the top of the page features several gold-colored garlands. These garlands consist of thin gold strings with various ornaments including large five-pointed stars, smaller four-pointed stars, and circular beads. The garlands are strung across the top and sides of the page, framing the text.

◆ If we put our hand in God's hand  
As we enter this New Year  
Not knowing what the future holds  
But that our Friend is near

We shall not fear what lies ahead  
If He is by our side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If He will be our guide.

The Sinless One from heaven came  
To dwell with us on earth,  
He sought and bought us with His blood  
And offered us new birth.

Now as we travel through this year  
He knows the things He's planned,  
So let us trust and know just this –  
Our times are in His hands.

***By Megan Carter***

# A Letter From Bishop Bev

Every time I reflect upon the Christmas story, I'm always astounded by the miracle that Mary and Jesus ever survived the pregnancy. The odds were stacked against them - Mary's young age, the significant stress she was placed under by the social moral norms, the judgement she was under and rejection by her community, the 'shame blame', the traumatic journey to Bethlehem in the final stages of her pregnancy, the squalid place for the birthing and with no midwife. Infant mortality was high even without this backdrop! And just when they might have thought it was all over, they were under the murderous threat of a paranoid despotic king.

Of course, it was a miracle!

Every step of Mary's journey reveals extraordinary fortitude, courage and belief in God. I never cease to be amazed by Mary's maturity of faith and trust at so young an age, and even when she must surely have questioned what it meant to be 'blessed'.

Mary, like so many of the faithful who kept the promises of God alive, believed God would one day raise up and anoint a leader, a descendant of King David who would gather the dispersed people together under his kingship and just rule. He would be both king and priest, even after the order of David.

God had given the people promise and hope, and with this the assurance that God was with them, God loved them and God would never leave them. However bad things might be, things would get better, because of the promise and because they believed and trusted.

On the Feast of Christ the King, which immediately precedes the advent of Christmas, we are presented with the King of Heaven and Earth, before the representative king of the known world, saying, 'My kingdom is not from this world. Standing before Pilate as one under judgement and condemnation, the King of Heaven and Earth says this: For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' [Jn 18.37]



The miracle of the incarnation is in fact a miraculous journey that brings Jesus beyond the miracle of the birthing to the place of judgement, to the Cross and indeed to death and the second death. A journey that could only happen with the acquiescence of angels who with hushed breath passively looked on. For this, he came.

Life is full of unknowns. When we think the path is straight before us, it takes a curve or becomes bumpy. The light at the end of the tunnel becomes hidden, because we learn there's a bend in the tunnel. Even as I write this address, none of us know how Christmas 2021 is going to look. With fear of the NU variant escalating, will we be able to meet, hold nativity plays, have carol services and reach out to others with acts of loving kindnesses!

For Christians, there is one thing we do know! We know that over 2,000 years ago, a baby was born in Bethlehem, and he is Christ the King. There's a carol that I love, with the words, 'Mary, did you know ... when you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God?'

NT Wright succinctly says, 'If the world didn't need a Messiah, he wouldn't have come!'

Dear friends, wherever and however you celebrate Christmas, whether with others or alone, may you do so in the spirit of Mary and all the saints, in the knowledge that God is with you, God loves and God will never leave you. This Christmas look through the tat and the tinsel into the crib and upon the face of the baby and see a glimpse of the face of God, who came and who has achieved far more than any of us can really comprehend ..... The salvation of the world. And with the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, may we in a hushed breath, say 'thank you', and find our voice to sing, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to all people on earth.'

May you have a truly blessed, happy and hope-filled Christmas and with my thanks for your faith and your witness and our shared ministry in the Good News of Jesus Christ our Lord. After the busyness of the season, please do find time for your rest and refreshment. Amen

**+Bev**  
**Bishop of Warrington**

# Get to Know...

**Name:** Rosalyn Unsworth

**Roles & responsibilities:** I am a Licensed Reader and Local Missional Leader for St. Andrew's in Garswood. The two roles overlap in my ministry and I am well blessed with a very supportive team of people who all have St. Andrew's in their heart. St. Andrew's is very much a church family, meeting for worship each Sunday at 9.30am and additionally offering the service down the telephone for those parishioners who may not be able to get to church, or live too far away – one of our worshippers joins us from Co. Durham each Sunday!

In addition to this I am part of the team who run a dementia café called 'Peace of Mind' which offers love and support to dementia sufferers and their carers. We meet on a monthly basis in the Mission Hall, Garswood.

Another aspect of my ministry is Funeral Ministry, a role which I am privileged to do.

**Favourite church memory:** This was the day when I was licenced as a Reader in Liverpool Cathedral; as soon as the processional hymn began I knew that all those hours of study had been worth it to bring me to this stage in my Christian development. I was reminded of this as I sang "All my hope on God is founded, He doth still my trust renew, Me through change and chance He guideth, Only good and only true. God unknown, He alone, Calls my heart to be his own.

In addition when I was commissioned as an LML, one of the hymns identified all my feelings at the time: 'In Christ Alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song... Here in the love of Christ I stand'.

**Interesting fact:** I am now retired from a full time teaching post which I held at the Deanery High School in Wigan for many years. But, life is still very busy with church commitments and caring for my 6 year old twin grandsons!



**Favourite bible verse:** This undoubtedly is: Isaiah's Commission

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

This particular passage comes to mind when, as a sixth former in school, I discovered that God was calling me to take my faith further and I enrolled on a “Badge of Recognition” course with Liverpool Diocese. This gave me a taster of how I could lead people. So, when my daughter became more independent as a child, I embarked upon the Reader course.

During this period of training, even though on occasions I would burn the midnight oil, I knew that this was the way that God was taking me and so progression into Local Missional Leader seemed the right pathway to follow. As a consequence I love to sing the hymns but in particular “I the Lord Of Sea and Sky”, and “Be still for the presence of the Lord”.

**Favourite hobby:** Gardening, I love spending time outside observing His creation.

# Get to Know...

**Name:** Catherine Cloake

**Role / Responsibilities:** PCC member, Girls' Brigade leader, church committee member as the safeguarding assistant, I also produce the power points for the Sunday morning services at St Peter's.

**Favourite hymn / bible verse:** I have a few favourite hymns as music is very important to me and my family. However 'I Will Enter His Gates' is my favourite closely followed by 'Will Your Anchor Hold'. My favourite bible verse is Luke 15: 11 - 32, The Lost Son. I have always enjoyed this parable and I love teaching it to children both at Brigade and in my day job.



**Favourite church memory / occasion:** I am very lucky to have worshipped at 3 very special churches in my life all which share very happy and special memories.

My first church was Hart Common in Westhoughton and my favourite memory here was the amazing ladies in woolly hats on the front row who used to feed me sweets to keep me quiet.

My second church was The Bethel in Westhoughton which is where I started my Brigade journey, here my memory would be carrying the Brigade colours for the first time.

My final church is St Peter's at Bryn where I started to worship as a teenager. Here I have many amazing memories - getting married, christening our children, and being commissioned as a Brigade Leader. However, I must say that my everlasting memory of St Peters will also be the love, support and guidance I have always been shown by the congregation especially at the lowest points of my life.

**How and when did you become a Christian:** I feel I have always been a Christian as from a very young age I have been taught about God's love and shown how to live a fun Christian life. However, I do remember on a Brigade training weekend being inspired to teach others about God and feeling God's encouragement to take a more active role in church.

**Favourite sports team or individual:** My favourite team of all time is Wigan Warriors. My favourite sports person/s are Zak Hardaker and Freddie Flintoff (as I also like cricket).

**Interesting fact:** I can fit my fist in my mouth!!

## Rob's January must see movies



### **The Electrical Life of Louis Wain (12A)**

**Released:** 1st January

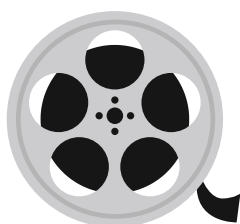
Benedict Cumberbatch stars as the titular Louis Wain, a marvellously eccentric individual who rose to fame for his surreal painting of cats. The film will be every bit as surreal as the paintings and features a cast that also features Claire Foy, Toby Jones and Andrea Riseborough



### **Scream (TBA)**

**Released:** 14th January

Yep, that ol' ghost-face is back once more as the horror franchise returns for a new generation. The old cast all return as we all wonder, who dunnit?



### **Nightmare Alley (TBA)**

**Released:** 21st January

Guillermo del Toro returns with this psychological chiller that stars Bradley Cooper, Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara and more in this tale of a mysterious carnival fortune teller .

# Looking to the New Year

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted as having two faces. As we look back on a difficult year dominated by the pandemic, how should we look forward to 2022 with fresh hope? The apostle Paul writes: 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13,14).

Firstly, to make a new start, you need to forget the things which are behind. Paul saw himself as an athlete running for Christ and purposely not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and difficulties to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and failures to receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to focus on the things that lie ahead. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and neighbourhood, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, who would say 'well done, good and faithful servant'. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, 'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'

***Canon Paul Hardingham***

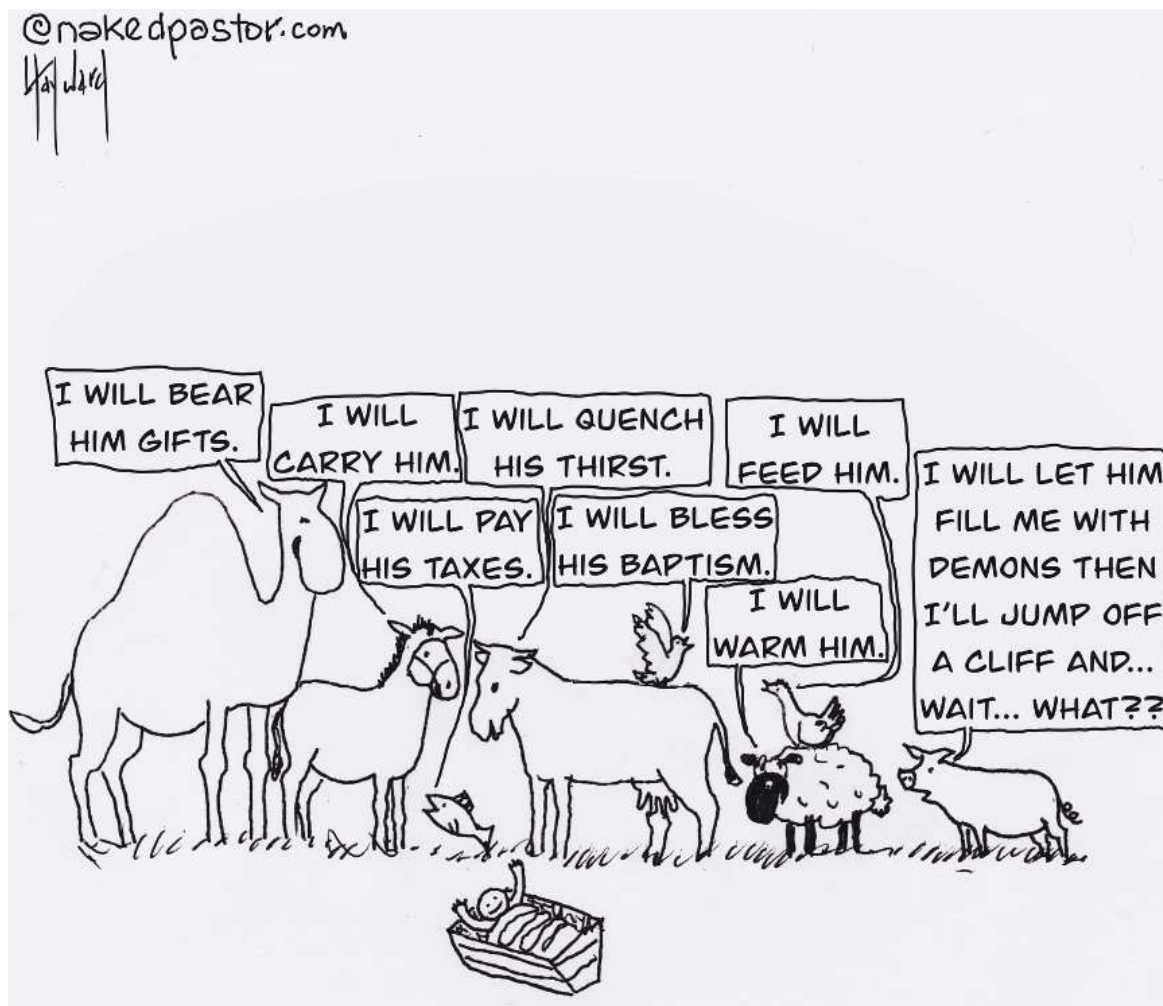
## God's fragrance – do people catch a whiff of it on you?

'...and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.' John 12:3

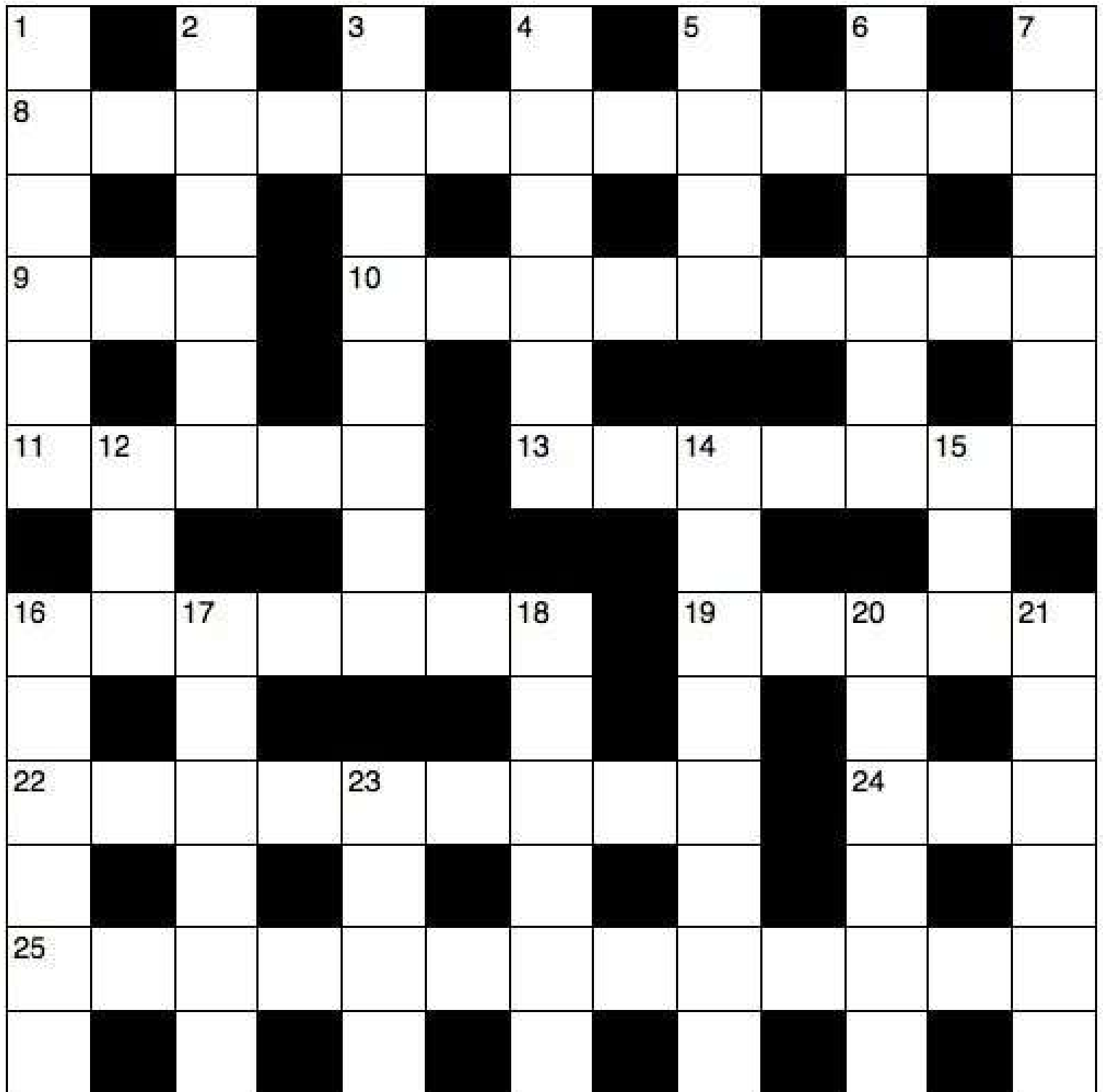
A story runs of how a lady was having tea outside a tea shop late one afternoon, when she became aware of a pleasant scent filling the air. She asked the waiter the source of the scent and was told that it came from the people passing by.

He explained that they worked in a perfume factory down the street and were on their way home. When they left the factory, they always carried with them the fragrance that had permeated their clothes during their day's work.

As the perfume workers leave the factory full of the fragrance of where they have been, so we, as we leave our churches and chapels and wherever we spend time with God, are meant to carry the perfume of His presence with us. We are called to spread everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him (2 Corinthians 2:4). If we allow ourselves in worship to be permeated with Christ's love and the sweetness of His presence, then we will be able to take the Jesus in us out into the world.



# Crossword



Answers on page 19

## Across

- 8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
- 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
- 10 The Ten Commandments (9)
- 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
- 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)
- 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)
- 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
- 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
- 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
- 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

## Down

- 1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
- 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)
- 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)
- 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)
- 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)
- 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)
- 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)
- 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)
- 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
- 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
- 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)
- 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
- 18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
- 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
- 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)
- 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

# January Holy Days

## **6th January: What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?**

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!



## **19th January - Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester 1095**

He was the last surviving pre-Conquest bishop, the first bishop to pay homage to William the Conqueror after the battle of Hastings, and one of the few Saxons to keep high office to the end of William's reign. On top of that, he seems to have been a truly good and holy man.

Wulfstan was born about 1008 at Long Itchington, Warwickshire. His uncle was Archbishop of York, and through his help, Wulfstan studied at the monasteries of Evesham and in Peterborough. Because of his Christian dedication, his superiors recommended him for the priesthood. Wulfstan was ordained in 1038 and joined a Benedictine monastery at Worcester.

Wulfstan was appointed prior of the monastery and from 1034 also served as the parish priest of Hawkesbury, Gloucestershire. He was made bishop of Worcester in 1062.

As a bishop, Wulfstan made some significant contributions to the English church. He had a passion for pastoral care and was the first English bishop to be known to have made a complete visitation of his diocese. He was a gifted administrator, increasing the effectiveness of his archdeacons.

He was a powerful preacher – with a great gift for explaining the teaching of Christianity. He encouraged a wider understanding of public penitence and taught against the many pagan customs throughout the land.

He had a strong social conscience, and soon became a bitter opponent of the slave trade. Together with Lanfranc, Wulfstan was mainly responsible for ending the slave trade in Bristol, and also for abolishing the slave trade between Worcester diocese and Ireland.

He had a passion for buildings, and founded Great Malvern Priory, as well as overseeing the large-scale rebuilding of Worcester Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral, and Tewkesbury Abbey.

Wulfstan died in January 1095, apparently during his daily ritual of washing the feet of 12 of his parishioners.

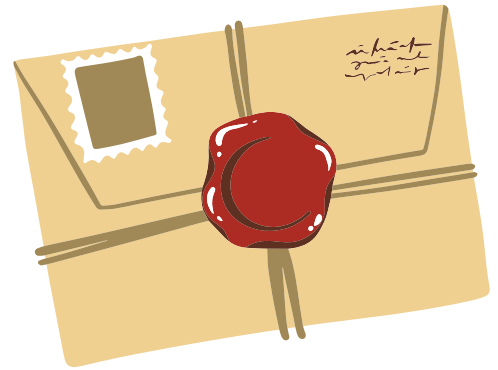
# St James the Least of All

*The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren



Your annual accounts – all 146 pages, bound in their plastic covers and laid out in faultless detail – really are most impressive. I was rather envious to note you have a clergy ‘discretionary fund’; if I were to be given such a thing, my cellar of claret would improve immeasurably – although that is perhaps the reason why I am not given one.

The size of your office expenses makes me wonder if you have a staff rivalling that of the European Community. I suppose that at least you are doing your bit for job creation. Our dear Miss Marigold, who spends two hours a week randomly filing pieces of paper, mistyping rotas and failing to re-order stationery, is only rewarded by being the first to find out who are booking marriages and having their babies baptised – and if they do not happen in that order, that will be another piece of information remembered for future use. All this is information beyond the price of jewels in village communities.

Our accounts have more by way of charm than they do of accuracy, generally consisting of one sheet of handwritten paper. There are only ever three copies for circulation, as that is the limit of Colonel Denster’s carbon paper. It seems to be an unalterable tradition that they never balance, until we find the following year that the missing £20 was found months later under the teapot on the mantelpiece. One footnote to this was the occasion when the Colonel suspected an unaccountable £5 had been eaten by his Labrador. Our greatest expenses by far are categorised as ‘miscellaneous’, which is a catch-all for everything that our treasurer is unable to recall where it really went.

The thousands paid on church maintenance and diocesan fees are nodded through without comment – but if the money spent on Easter lilies or packets of tea for the Summer Fete increases by anything more than 50 pence, there will be much agonised debate and speculation about whether this is an indication of money laundering.

I see that your accounts were professionally audited. Fortunately, it does not matter too much about the accuracy of our own, as I have an arrangement with our auditor who lives in the village: if he refuses to sign them off, then I refuse to baptise his grandchildren.

Your loving uncle,  
***Eustace***

### **Franklin Graham tour coming to the UK**

Franklin Graham, the son of the late US evangelist Billy Graham, is to come to the UK this year for his God Loves You mission. It was due to be held last year, but got postponed by the pandemic. The God Loves You Tour UK will visit Liverpool Exhibition Centre on 14th May, the ICC Wales on 21st May, the Sheffield Arena on 25th May, and end at the London ExCel Centre on 16th July.

## Crossword Answers

**ACROSS:** 8, Bottomless pit. 9, Ice. 10, Decalogue. 11, Limbo. 13, Seconds. 16, Crimson. 19, Eager. 22, Abhorrent. 24, Lap. 25, Alpha and Omega.

**DOWN:** 1, Abdiel. 2, Stream. 3, Wondrous. 4, Flocks. 5, USCL. 6, A pagan. 7, Athens. 12, IOR. 14, Creation. 15, Dye. 16, Cravat. 17, In hope. 18, Need no. 20, Galley. 21, Repeat. 23, Read.

# Wordsearch

j	x	m	y	u	f	o	w	h	a	g	u
j	e	s	u	s	c	r	e	a	m	e	d
z	g	b	t	r	o	w	i	n	g	e	t
e	h	l	o	r	d	m	h	g	p	f	t
j	o	j	w	a	o	y	e	p	h	a	t
l	s	x	a	j	a	n	i	o	o	t	r
n	t	o	r	w	a	h	g	b	n	h	u
w	i	n	d	i	s	c	i	p	l	e	s
r	o	a	s	r	i	w	a	t	e	r	t
s	e	m	o	u	n	t	a	i	n	m	i
h	m	w	a	l	k	i	n	g	o	d	n
p	e	t	e	r	m	o	r	n	i	n	g

headway

mountain

Lord

Jesus

someone

water

trusting

rowing

boat

morning

screamed

worshipped

strong

towards

disciples

father

ghost

fright

Son

walking

Peter

wind

sink

God



Together with local businesses, we are working to reduce the amount of food going to land fill. The pantry is regularly stocked with food that is near its sell by date but can still be used to feed bellies not bins.

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Thursday 3pm–4pm

Saturday 11am–12pm

Sunday 3pm–4pm

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Any additional monies shall be used to build a pantry and kitchen behind the church hall.





# **F.W. Marsh**

**EST 1907**

**SAIF**

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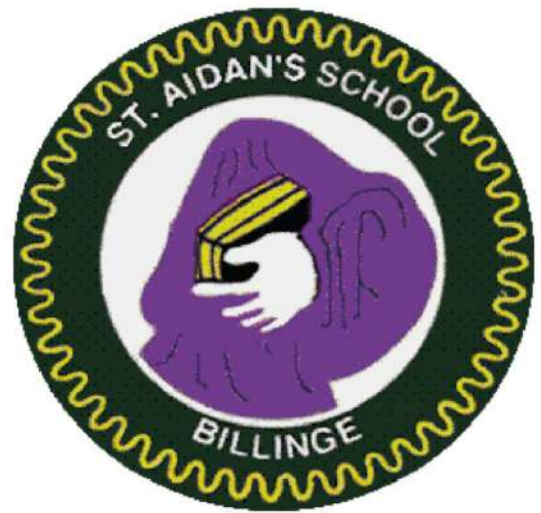
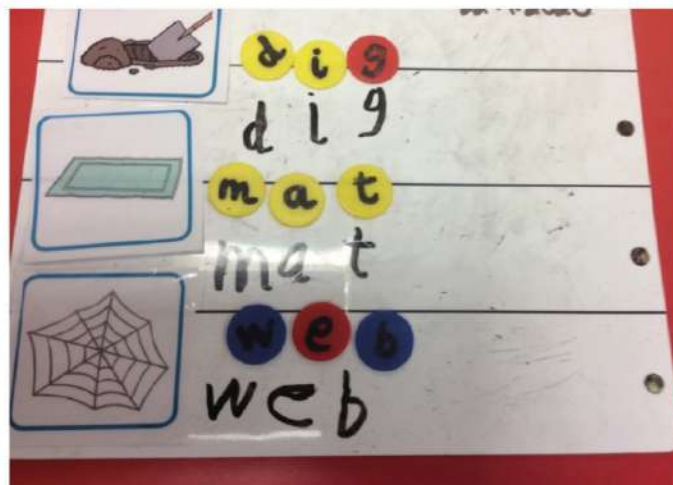
100 Parr Stocks Road. Tel: 01744 27928

199 Warrington Road, Whiston Tel: 0151 431 0696

1 Queen St; Newton-le-Willows WA12 9AS Tel: 01925 291060

177 Ormskirk Road, Rainford, WA11 8HR Tel 01744 882645





## Welcoming you to our St Aidan's Family

Funded places available in our Nursery for September 2021 for 3 and 4 year olds. Please contact school on:

01744 678042

[staidansb@sthelens.org.uk](mailto:staidansb@sthelens.org.uk)





**Crank Nursery is a registered charity, situated in a semi-rural and tranquil area of St Helens. We have been established for over 30 years and all staff are highly qualified, experienced, and paediatric first aid trained. We offer high quality childcare and teaching for children aged 3 months – 4 years**

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# News from our churches

## Pattern of Services at St. Aidan's

Until further notice the following services will take place in Church

**1st Sunday** 9.30am Holy Communion  
12.45pm Baptism Service

**2nd Sunday** 10.30am (see below)  
4.00pm Evening Prayer

**3rd Sunday** 10.00am Morning Worship

**4th Sunday** 10.00am St Aidan's Beacon  
4.00pm Evening Prayer

**5th Sunday** 10.00am Morning Worship

**1st Wednesday** 10.00am Holy Communion

**3rd Wednesday** 10.00am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday 10.30 am Sta's4all will be posted on our Facebook page until further notice it offers bitesize worship for all ages, particularly the young at heart

The Beacon is a contemporary all age Service which will vary month to month

Please note that St. Aidan's has maintained Covid precautions in line with other churches in our Hub to keep people safe. Face coverings are mandatory in churches, please sanitise your hands on entry to church. Please leave at least one seat between households. We are making further adjustments – again we use the QR code or sign in for test and trace. You are also asked to use a lateral flow test before you come to church and please stay at home if you are unwell. We must respect others and keep each other safe.

## Dates for your diary:

9th January 10.00am – Christingle Service: Celebrating the work of the Children’s Society. Young Families are warmly invited. This year (because of Covid precautions) you will receive the things you need to make your own Christingle at home.

23rd January 10.00am - Beacon Service: The theme shall be 'Making a new start'!



### St Aidan’s Primary School and Nursery

The staff and students have done some fantastic fund raising for Willowbrook hospice in December memory of former Head Mrs Ravenscroft. Sadly Christmas productions had to be virtual ‘in school’ rather than having audiences. Please pray that all schools will soon be able to be active again.

### Zoom Toddler Church

Our next Zoom Toddlers will be on January 12th and 26th . If you wish to join us please email [harrywareing@talktalk.net](mailto:harrywareing@talktalk.net) so that we can send you an invitation. The sessions start at 10am and last for about 25 minutes.

### Mother’s Union

Because of the transmissibility of the Omicron Variant of Covid we have been asked not to have meetings face to face in church until further notice. Mother’s Union did not take place as planned on Dec 16th. They will inform their members when they are able to resume meeting again. If you want further information contact the Secretary, Kathleen Milligan.

### Sta’s4all

We are still offering a Bitesize worship Video on our Facebook Page, which will be posted at 10.30 am on Sunday 9th January. But why not come to the Christingle Service and watch Sta’s on line later in the day!

[Facebook.com/BillingeStAidansChurch](https://www.facebook.com/BillingeStAidansChurch)



## **St Aidan's in the Community**

We were delighted to meet some of you at the Christmas Market on December 5th.

Our food collection point for groceries to support community members through the Hope Centre Food Bank is up and running. Several donations have already been brought to church when attending for services, and our volunteers have taken these down to the Hope Centre.



### **Beacon**

At our beacon Service on November 29th many wrote a simple prayer on a card. These were very touching and beautiful. The prayers have been prayed over and hung on our Christmas Tree by members of 'Hot Chocolate' – a group of 10 – 18 year olds who meet once a month in church to journey together in faith.

## **Church Committee**

The church committee will meet on Thursday 20th January by zoom. If you wish to raise any issues please contact Peter Hughes (Chair) or Helen Steele (Secretary).

## **Memorials**

Names of deceased loved ones whose ashes have been interred in the memorial garden can be inscribed on the large granite memorial stone. Entries on the stone cost £200. If the partner or other relative wishes to reserve an adjacent space this can also be arranged, the cost being the same as the original entry and with no further charge when the inscription is completed. In order to ensure that the reserved line is kept the date of birth of the person for whom it is reserved will be added. The fee/s must be paid before any inscription is added.

Chairs in church can also be sponsored by the addition of an inscribed brass plate in memory of a loved one, it is also possible to sponsor a chair in one's own name. The charge for either sponsorship is £50.

Anyone wishing to make use of any of these should contact Jack Boardman (892613) or one of the assistant wardens. Please give details in writing and include a telephone number on which you can be contacted.

# Donations & Dedications



## **Donations and Dedications**

If you wish to make a donation dedicated to a loved one, either to St Aidan's Church Funds, St. Aidan's Churchyard costs or to Floodlighting, then please give cash or cheques to church in a sealed envelope, labelled 'To the Treasurer', identify which area you are making the donation to, and include the words of dedication.

Any cheques should be made out to Billinge Parish Church St. Aidan's PCC.

Alternatively you may use Bank Transfer to our Church Bank Account - Number 04035135, sort code 60 24 02. The Account name remains 'Billinge Parish Church St Aidan's PCC'.

If making a bank transfer you should also notify us of the details of the fund you wish to donate to and the dedication you would like published.



# Donations & Remembrance



St. Aidan's Treasurer and Church Committee would like to acknowledge with thanks the kind donations:

Anonymous donation towards the purchase of bibles for children at St Aidan's.

3 Anonymous donations towards church funds

Anonymous donation towards churchyard upkeep

Anonymous donation towards heating bill

Anonymous donation towards floodlights

In loving memory of Jean Steele from Richard and Helen

In loving memory of Ethel and Jesse Ashton from John and Sheila

In memory of loved ones, from Jennie Silcock and family



# The Registers



## Funerals 'May they rest in peace'

15 December	Ann Houghton	94
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Bless those who mourn, eternal God,  
with the comfort of your love  
that they may face each new day with hope  
and the certainty that nothing can destroy  
the good that has been given.  
May their memories become joyful,  
their days enriched with friendship,  
and their lives encircled by your love.

**Amen**



## Holy Baptism 'We welcome them into the Lord's family'

5 December	Reuben Abel Allan Dale
5 December	Vincent Andrew Claude Duval

# St Aidan's Church Officials

## Reader

Helen Steele  
hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk

01744 894111

## Reader in Training

Lesley Leppard  
rednib2@hotmail.co.uk

01744 892713

## Assistant Wardens

Barbara Goulden  
Peter Hughes  
Vacant

01744 894694  
01744 732890

## Assistant Treasurers

Joan Roberts  
joanroberts@blueyonder.co.uk  
Lorraine Webb  
lorraineawebb@hotmail.co.uk

01744 893251

01744 608363

## Mothers' Union

Jennifer Berry  
jenrenberry@gmail.com

01942 389715

## Gift Aid

Philip Stott  
philipjstott@icloud.com

01744 895751

## Mothers' Union Secretary

Kathleen Milligan

01744 892012

## Baptism Enquiries

Margaret Stott

01744 895751

## Bible Reading Notes

Harry Wareing  
harrywareing@talktalk.net

01744 894759

## Wedding Bookings

Barbara Goulden  
staidansbillingeeverger@gmail.com

## C.E Children's Society

Jean Grundy  
jean Grundy49@gmail.com

01744 603208

## USPG Boxes

John & Brenda Bridge  
rjohnbridge@gmail.com

01744 894528

## Church Yard Volunteers

Tracey Holland  
tracey.cattery5@btinternet.com

01744 893905

## Flowers

Joan Andrew  
joanandrew@live.com

01744 892877

## St Aidan's School Headteacher

Rachel Fisher

01744 678042

## Assistant Magazine Editor

Vacant

Funerals are always booked through the undertaker. Other enquiries about funerals contact [staidansbillingeeverger@gmail.com](mailto:staidansbillingeeverger@gmail.com)

St Aidan's Billinge  
[www.staidanbillinge.org.uk](http://www.staidanbillinge.org.uk)

