

Wigan South Parish Magazine



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

St Aidan's edition



GLORY TO THE
NEW BORN
KING

December 2022

60p

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Parish Information

Baptisms

Baptisms (also called Christenings) are held around the Parish throughout the month. Please come along to the morning service at the church of your choice, and you can talk about booking a date that works well for you and church. Godparents must have been baptised themselves 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.

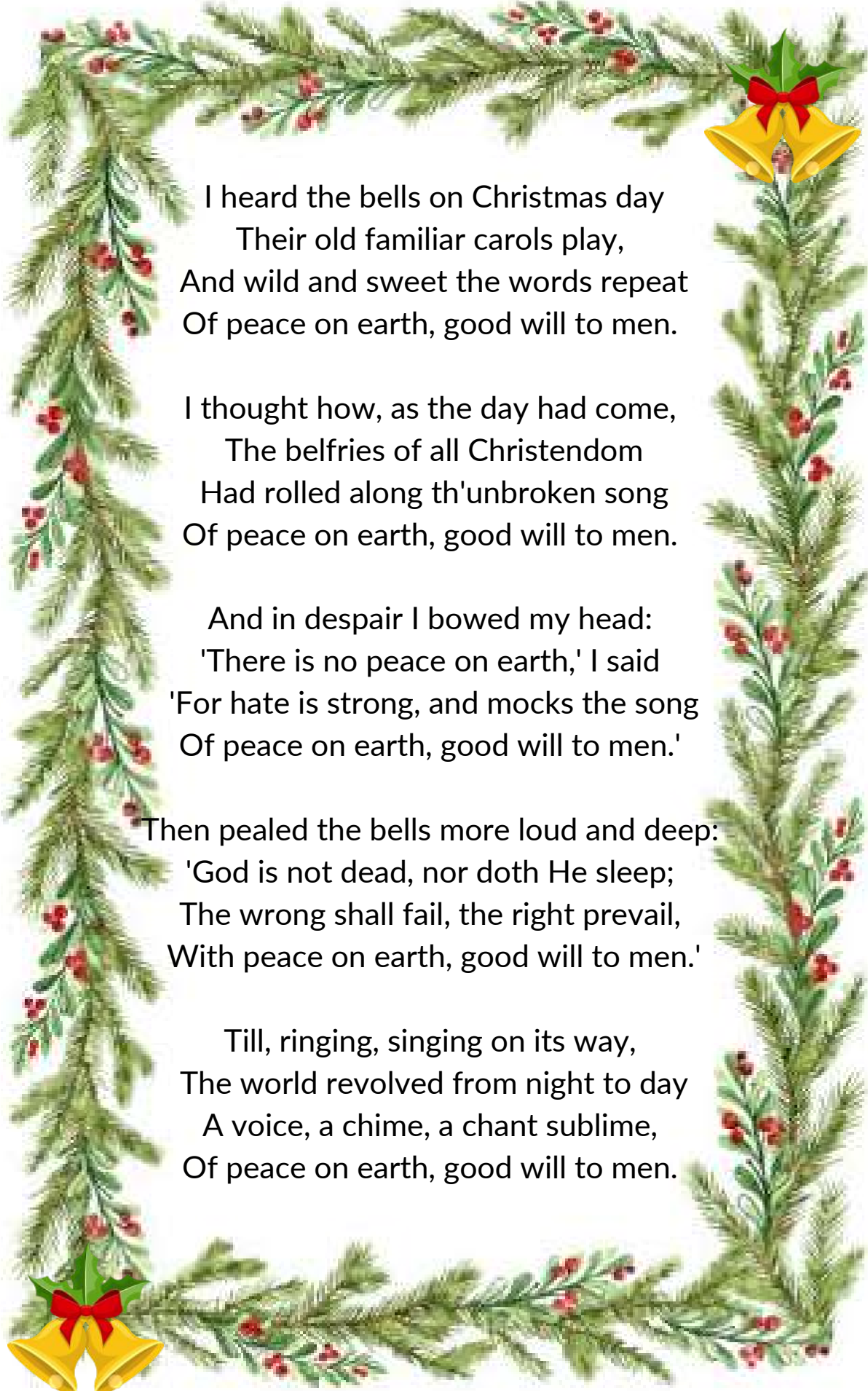
If you would like further information or to book a funeral, wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine

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.

	January	February	March
Deadline for material	15 December	19 January	16 February
Publication date	25 Decmber	29 January	26 February

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day



I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

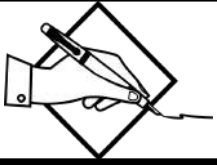
I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1863)



A Letter from Ros



Dear Friends,

Mr. TOPSY TURVY was a funny sort of a fellow.

“Everything about him was either upside down, or inside out, or back to front – topsy turvy in fact, It was all very extraordinary!!!”



So begins the story of MR. TOPSY TURVY by Roger Hargreaves. One of the famous Mr. Men Books enjoyed by countless children over the years.

As I read this book alongside my Grandson it made me call to mind the topsy turvy events that we have experienced over the last 5 months or so. We are still very much aware of the prevalence of Covid and constantly on the news we witness just how climate change is affecting us in this country and the rest of the world.

In June we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth – a truly majestic time as we recognised her reign over the country and all of us enjoyed and celebrated together the total dedication of Her Majesty. Sadly in September we were told of her death, and the great celebrations were turned upside down as the country and the world went into a period of mourning. We recognised the total grief experienced by the members of the Royal family as together we mourned alongside them. We too as her subjects prepared for her state funeral with all the pomp and ceremony as she was respectfully laid to rest and so began a new era of a King – Charles 3rd the Carolean Era.

Suddenly everything had been turned topsy turvy and now just as we thought that the country was settling, we experienced a new Prime Minister on the 6th September to be replaced by another on the 24th October!!

Mr. Topsy Turvy would have felt right at home!

In St. John's Gospel chapter 15 we read these words:

I am the Vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers, such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given to you. This is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

The Lord compared us to the branches and compared Himself to the vine. Our relationship with the Lord is like the relationship between the vine branches and the vine. Cut from the vine, the branches will lose their sustenance and then wither and die. From this we can appreciate that the Lord is the source of our life and that it is highly important to maintain a loving relationship with God.

Amid all the chaos and the TOPSY-TURVY of recent events in the country and indeed the world, within our lives it is important that we too stay connected to one another and to God for stability.

As Christians our deep faith allows us to do just that.

In November St. Andrew's celebrated 90 years as a Mission Church in Garswood offering worshipful support and care at the heart of the community that grew up around it, and we pray that we can continue to be an example in the South Hub as a place for "God in Action".

Today we offer thanks and praise to those people all those years ago who had the vision to provide a stable and secure place for the inhabitants of the village. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of a baby born in a stable let us hold fast to that thought.

Blessings to all of you and your families at this most holy of seasons.

Rosalyn xx

Crossword



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	17			18				19		20		
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22						23						
24									25			

Answers on page 11

Across

- 1 'How long will you – your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the – he bore'(Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not – the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether – – women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have – ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with – – ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " – – murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, – inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is – and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have – me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' – to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " – out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " – will I leave you; – will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

The cost of loving at Christmas

We all know the uncertainties! Despite our best efforts the country is experiencing its worst crisis in decades. Political turmoil, the aftershocks of the pandemic, the devastation of war and communities, families and individuals deeply concerned about being able to survive - not to mention the ongoing effects of the climate crisis.

It doesn't feel like a recipe for a Happy Christmas does it?

Yet these realities of hardship, uncertainty and fear existed way back at the time of the first Christmas. God chose incarnation among the poorest of a turbulent country at a difficult and dangerous time. His birth set the tone for his life and ministry. Though fraught with risk, incredulity and profound uncertainty, Jesus reached to those living in poverty, to the sick, the hungry, the marginalised and dispossessed, bringing hope in what would have seemed like bleak and hopeless times. His birth wasn't, of course, good news to everyone! To the ruling elite, he would bring judgment for their actions and he brought fear.

Confident of the hope Jesus blesses his people with, we are called to be hope-givers, light-bearers and life-blessers. We have a song of hope to sing this Christmas and people need to hear the song more than ever. This means look beyond our walls and our peripheral vision to the people Jesus wants us to reach. So many of us are doing this and we are seeing the bigger difference that it makes in people's lives. One act of loving-kindness in the name of Jesus will transform somebody's life.

This Christmas, let's commit to doing at least one act of loving kindness a day. However much we are struggling, please remember there are people starved of hope - they have have less than nothing. Christmas is the time when the world connects most with the Christmas story. This season gives us a wonderful opportunity to invite people to the many and various events and acts of worship.



Those of you familiar with LYCIG will be familiar with the mantra, ' It's going to be great – I'm going, why don't you come, too! ' There are so many people of all ages, families and single people, the lonely, isolated and bereaved – people like you and me whose Christmas may be transformed by your invitation.

Friends, the first worshippers around the crib were invited: the angels invited the shepherds; the star invited the magi. Who will you invite? The National Church's Follow the Star: The Great Invitation gives us fabulous resources and support to enable us to reach out gently yet confidently to the world around us, so very much in need of its saviour.

If you fear the cost, ponder for a moment the cost of love which came to us at Christmas – the love of God in the face of the Christ-Child, the one who lived for us and died for us in order to redeem death itself, that we might live with him in the place that knows no ending. That same love that is poured into the hearts of all who dare to invite Him in.



My hope for us all is that we will rise to the act of kindness challenge; that we shall dare to be invitation givers and hope bringers and that by blessing others, we will deepen our own understanding of what it means to be blessed by God.

I pray that you have a happy, blessed and warm Christmas.

Bishop Bev

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod.

DOWN: 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.

Parish News



On Sunday 30th October, all of our worship communities joined together in praise and worship in a joint Wigan South Holy Communion Service at St Thomas' church, and online through the live streaming and recording of the service.

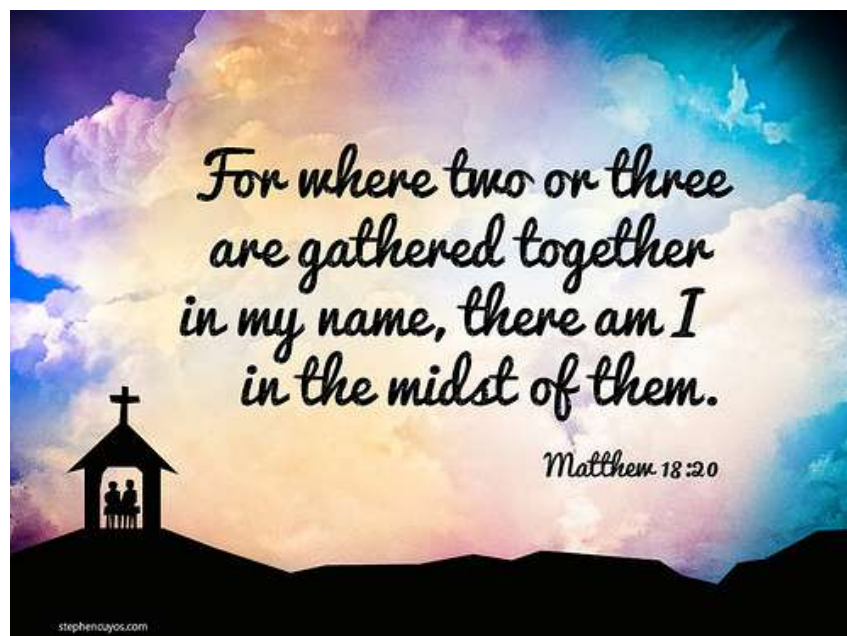


And what a blessing it was to all who were in attendance!

The service was so wonderfully organised and led by our Local Mission Leaders, with rousing music from St Thomas' music group, an enticing reflection from Kelvin, and a lovely communion presided over by Sue Thomas, with help from Jeremy too when we realised just how many people were to receive communion - what a great problem to have!

it was so uplifting to hear so many voices lifting the roof in song and praise, and for this to continue in chatting over tea and toast after the service.

I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the next opportunity for us to join together as Wigan South, and if you missed this service, keep your eyes peeled for the next 5th Sunday!





CAN YOU HELP WRAP UP WIGAN?

As the weather turns colder, we are inviting supporters and businesses to help vulnerable families and individuals facing crisis this winter. With the cost-of-living crisis, rising energy and fuel bills, increasing food prices and rising inflation the winter months are looking bleak for many families and individuals in our borough. The harsh reality is many people will be cold, hungry, or destitute as they are plunged deeper into poverty.

We urgently need your help so families and individuals can stay warm and fed in Wigan. Can you donate any of the following to support the most vulnerable members of our community?

Electric blankets (new pls) / warm blankets
 Hot water bottles / hand warmers
 Thermal clothing (adults & children)

Padded coats / body warmers / fleeces
 Hats / gloves / socks / slippers
 Slow cookers

You can donate or collect warm winter items at any of our retail shops:

The Leigh Shop 13 Railway Road Leigh WN7 4AA Monday to Saturday 9.30 – 4.30pm
 The Wigan Shop 160 Gidlow Lane Wigan WN6 7EA Monday to Friday 9.30 – 4.30pm, Saturday 10am – 3pm
 The Brick Works 4 Hodson St Wigan WN3 4EN Monday-Friday 9.45am – 4.15pm, second Saturday of the month, 9am-1pm

To request an electric blanket or slow cooker please call us on 01942 236 953 or email enquiries@thebrick.org.uk More here > <https://buff.ly/3cls76s>



Christmas Tree Festival 2022 at St Aidan's
Friday 9th, Saturday 10th, Sunday 11th December



Friday 9th December

1.30pm: Opening Service with the local schools

7.30pm: Valley Brass Band Concert - tickets £5 (including refreshments)

Saturday 10th December

Church open from **10.30am to 4pm** - refreshments will be available during the day.

4pm: Christmas Family Movie Event - wear your pjs, snuggle down for a family fun movie. Tickets are £2 or £5 per family. Includes refreshments of hot chocolates and goodies.

Sunday 11th December

10.30am: STA's4ALL Service

Church open from **12pm to 4pm** for people to come and see the wonderful spectacle of decorated trees!

4pm: Carol by Candlelight Service

We look forward to welcoming you!



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

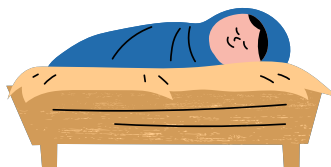
You are invited to our 'Christmas Celebration' at Holy Trinity

at 3pm on Sunday 18th December

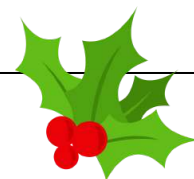
The Christmas story will be told through Bible readings, poems, video clips, Christmas music and carols.

Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served and the Grand Christmas Raffle drawn.

We look forward to welcoming you.



Services & Events in December



Parish Events

Wednesday 7th	1.00pm - 3.00pm: Knit & Chat 7.00pm: Snowman Drive 7.30pm: Women's Fellowship	St Peter's St Luke's St Peter's
Friday 9th	1.30pm Christmas Tree Festival opening service 7.30pm: Valley Brass Band Concert	St Aidan's
Saturday 10th	4.00pm: Christmas Family Movie Night 6.00pm: Boy's Brigade Christmas Bingo & Raffle 7.00pm: Christmas Celebration led by Beacon Church	St Aidan's St Peter's St Thomas'
Monday 12th	2.15pm Carols in Church with children from Rectory School	Holy Trinity
Tuesday 13th	1.30pm - 3.00pm: Peace of Mind Dementia Café	St Andrew's
Thursday 15th	2.00pm: Friendship Group 4.00pm Nativity Walk	St Aidan's Holy Trinity
Wednesday 21st	7.00pm: Mother's Union Carol Service	St Thomas'



Services in December



Thurs 1st	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sun 4th	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Toy Service 11.00am: Toy Service 6.30pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wed 7th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thurs 8th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sun 11th	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.45am: Café Church with Nativity 11.00am Nativity & Christingle	St Thomas' St Andrew's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's
Thurs 15th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sun 18th	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Carol Service 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Carol Service 10.45am: Holy Communion 11.00am Family Worship 3.00pm: Christmas Celebration 6.30pm: 9 Lessons and Carols by Candlelight	St Thomas' St Andrew's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's Holy Trinity St Thomas'

Continued....

Wed 21st	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thurs 22nd	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sat 24th	3.00pm: Christmas Comunion 4.00pm: Christingle Service 8.00pm: Christmas Communion 11.00pm: Christmas Communion	Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Sun 25th	9.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Holy Communion 11.00am: Morning Worship	St Andrew's St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's

As we enter the time of anticipation throughout Advent, we invite everyone to join in the abundance of wonderful events and services available across the parish.

You are sure to receive a friendly welcome at all.



We are very grateful for all those who play a role in preparing the church buildings, putting together programmes of events over the festive period and leading us in worship - thank you!

December Holy Days



6th December: St Nicholas, a much-loved saint

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.

Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten - in bygone years boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December, and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many people feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

26th December: St Stephen – the first martyr

Have you ever stopped to consider that the very first martyr of the Christian Church was a deacon? (But no, he wasn't worked to death by his church.) It was Stephen, one of the first seven deacons of the Christian Church. He'd been appointed by the apostles to look after the distribution of alms to the faithful poor, and to help in the ministry of preaching.

Acts 6 and 7 tells us all that we know of his life, and the passages seem to suggest that he was an educated Hellenistic Jew. Certainly, Stephen's famous challenge to the Jews reveals him to have been learned in the Scriptures and the history of Judaism, besides being eloquent and forceful.

Stephen's proclamation on the day of his martyrdom pulled no punches. He told the Jews that God did not depend on the Temple. The Temple was but a temporary institution destined to be fulfilled and superseded by Christ, who was the prophet foreseen by Moses as the Messiah for whom the Jewish race had so long awaited.

Stephen then challenged his hearers for resisting the Spirit and for killing the Christ, as their fathers before them had killed the prophets. The Jews were so outraged by this that they stoned Stephen on the spot for blasphemy.

As he died, (c 35 AD) Stephen saw a vision of Christ on God's right hand. The men who were witness to the stoning placed their clothes at the feet of Saul (afterwards Paul), who (to his deep regret later) consented to Stephen's death.

By the fourth century Stephen had his own feast day in both East and West Churches. When his supposed tomb was discovered in 415, his popularity soared. His (supposed) relics were taken to Constantinople and then Rome, along with some stones (allegedly) used at his martyrdom.

Early on the Church made Stephen the patron saint of deacons. In the late Middle Ages he was also invoked to help against headaches (?!).

In England, 46 ancient churches are dedicated to him, most of them built after the Norman Conquest. In art Stephen is usually given a book of the Gospels and a stone, and sometimes the palm of martyrdom.



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.

St Thomas' Church Hall, Ashton in Makerfield

Tuesday 11am–12pm

Thursday 3pm–4pm

Saturday 11am–12pm

Sunday 3pm–4pm

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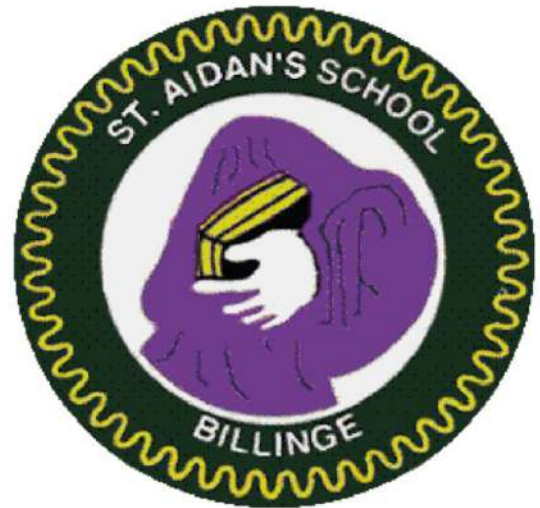
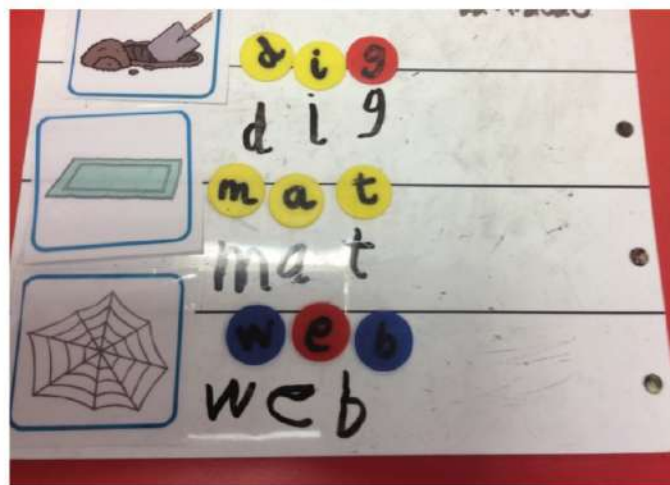
Also

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 2023 for 3 and 4 year olds.

Please contact school on:

01744 678042

staidansb@sthelens.org.uk





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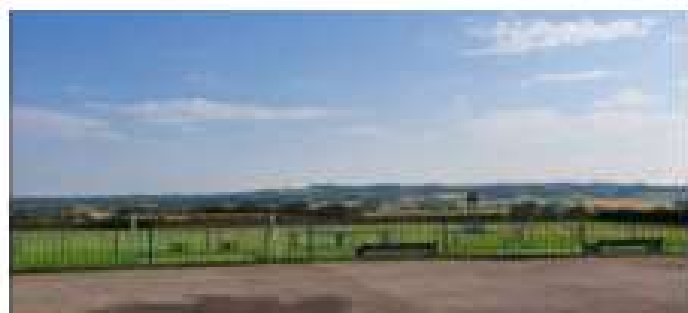
2, 3 and 4 year funded places are available, and we offer full and part time places.

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5* Food Hygiene rating

Ofsted rated Good

For further information, please feel free to give us a call on 01744 886166 or email admin@cranknursery.net



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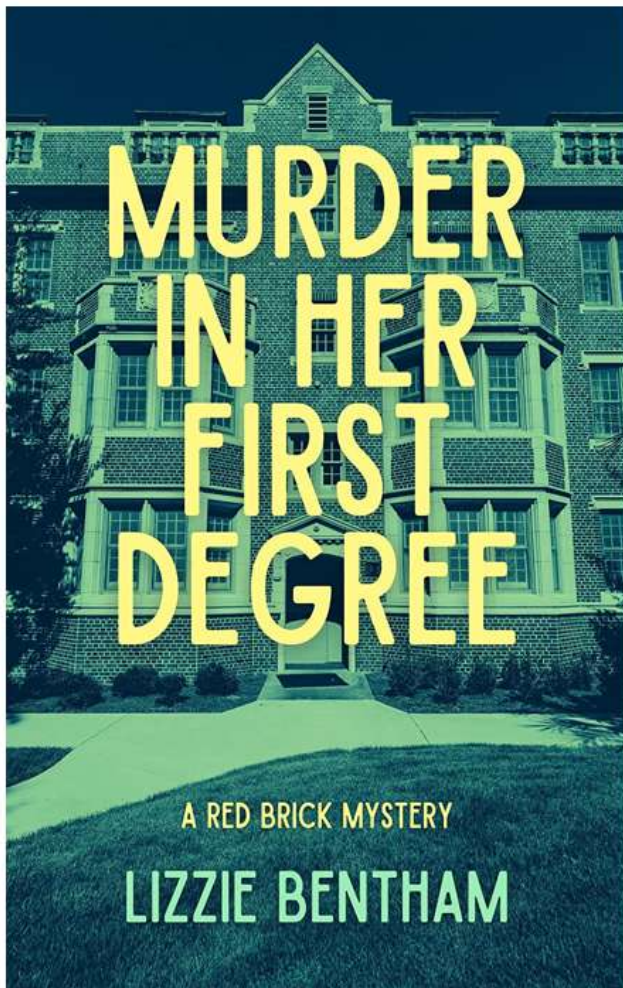
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Puppy Pamper, The Perfect Pamper, Full groom



Contact me on 07566 232282
Woofhairday@gmail.com



Gill Jones (nee Overend), who writes under the pseudonym Lizzie Bentham attended and was married at St Aidan's and her father is Rev Alan Overend. She has has written her first cosy murder mystery novel which is due for release soon.



A fast-paced, historical murder mystery set in 1930s Manchester...

It is 1934. Dorothea Roberts, a first year undergraduate at the Victoria University of Manchester, starts her academic career with a bang when she and her friends are drawn into investigating a shadowy spy-ring, after a chance encounter with a stranger on a train turns deadly. Members of the Women's Student Union Committee are dying off like flies and everything points towards there being a serial killer on the loose on campus. Dorothea must infiltrate the committee, while dealing with essay deadlines and her increasing feelings for the enigmatic Dr Hadley-Brown, before the killer strikes again.

Launch date: 15th of December 2022
Available to pre-order from
Dark Edge Press www.darkedgypress.co.uk
(paperback) and on Amazon (e-book)

News from our churches

4th December	10.00am 12.45pm	Holy Communion Baptism Service
11th December	10.30am 4.00pm	Sta's4all in church Candle lit Carols
18th December	10.00am	St Aidan's Beacon
Saturday 24th December	4.00pm 8.30pm	Crib Service Holy Communion
7th December	10.00am	Holy Communion
21st December	10.00am	Holy Communion

Please note that Sta's4all will be held at St Aidan's Church for December only. There will be activities and worship for all ages, particularly the young at heart.

Also on 11th December we will have our traditional Carols by Candlelight. Children will be offered a battery operated 'candle'. Adults can choose a wax candle. This will be extra special this year as the Christmas Tree Festival will be ongoing.

At our crib service we invite you to come dressed as shepherds, wise men or angels as we recall the story of the nativity and welcome the baby Jesus into our church and our hearts. We will be placing the nativity characters into the manger scene.

On Christmas Eve please join us for our Christmas Communion.



K4C (Kids 4 Christ) this month will be on Wednesday 14th December starting 10am for pre-school children with their carers. This operates on line. If you want an invitation to join this please email harrywareing@talktalk.net There is a short break over Christmas and this will begin again on 11th January 2023.

Church Committee: St. Aidan's Committee meets alternate months. In November we discussed how we could increase income to cover our expenses, ways of saving energy, the maintenance of our churchyard, , links with our community, recent and future services and other regular items. The next meeting is on January 19th. If you wish to raise any issue for our meeting please contact Grant Dixon (Health and Safety), Joan Roberts (Finance), Barbara Goulden and Peter Hughes (Assistant Wardens) or Helen Steele (Reader).



Sta's4all on 11th December will be in church, enjoying the Christmas Trees and thinking about the Christmas story! Those shepherds had a surprise, didn't they. What surprises will be in store today? We may be somewhere different, but we start as usual at 10.30 am, and the puppets will be joining us. We look forward to seeing you.

Beacon

A big thank you to all those who donated toys and other gifts for children from 0 to 17 years old at the November Beacon service. These are being distributed through the Mayor's Christmas Toy appeal.



Our service has been brought forward this month to 18th December. We will be waiting! As we all do in Advent. Joseph had to wait for his expected marriage to Mary. Mary had to wait for the birth of her special son. We are still waiting for Jesus to return in all his glory and defeat evil and death. What do we do while we are waiting? Why not come along and join us as we worship and wait.



The Friendship Group meet on Thursday 15th December at 2pm. We will be building friendships, having refreshments and also singing Carols this month. It will be a warm space for the afternoon. Do come and join us.

St. Aidan's Primary School and Nursery

Our children have safely arrived back to school after the October Half Term Holidays. This next term is jam packed activities for the children leading up to Christmas.



Toddler Group continues to run every Wednesday during term time from 9am to 10.30am.

In November our KS2 children have enrolled onto a Performing Arts Club which is being run in conjunction with Footlights Theatre. We are so excited to aim for our final production show in July 2023.

Our children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 are practising their lines and songs for the Nativity performances in December. It will be our first time since Covid when parents will be able to come and watch their performances in school.

Children in Years 4 and 5 are taking part in Experience Christmas.

On Tuesday 6th December 2022 we would like to welcome you to our St Aidan's PTA Christmas Fayre. It starts at 3.30pm and will finish at 5.30pm.

Everyone is welcome and monies raised will go towards activities/equipment for children.

On Thursday 8th December 2022 we have a performance of 'Charlotte's Web' for everyone in school – It has been funded by our St Aidan's PTA and will be performed by Altru Drama.

Friday 9th December 2022 sees our Christmas Jumper Day and school Christmas dinner. We can't wait to see our wonderful festive jumpers.

We are taking part in St Aidan's Church Christmas Tree Festival – come along and have a look at our trees for school and our toddler group.

Finally, we would like to wish all our families and friends a wonderful Christmas.

St Aidan's Emergency Prayer Group: Do you know someone in need of prayer support? Sick, Anxious, unloved, bereaved, depressed? Prayer enables us to be encircled in love. This emergency prayer group will pray in confidence for your loved one. Ring Jennifer on 01942 537325 or Brenda on 01744 894528 to share the need.

Christmas Cards: Don't forget the Christmas Card Baskets will be available in church to leave cards for church members. They are not delivered to the homes of those named on the envelope.

Or write your greeting to other church members on the large charity Christmas card up at the back of church. Have you nominated a charity to receive the donations when using this card? Please contact Barbara Goulden on 894694. Names and donations for this card must be given by Sunday 19th December and a list will be available at the Christmas Eve Services.

Christmas Market at the Mason's Arms on Sunday 4th December 12 noon till 5pm. If you are passing on the day do stop and have a chat!

St Aidan's in the Community:

As the weather turns colder, The Brick are inviting supporters and businesses to help vulnerable families and individuals facing crisis this winter. They urgently need our help so families and individuals can stay warm and fed in Wigan. Can you donate any of the following to support the most vulnerable members of our community?

- Electric blankets (new please) / warm blankets
- Hot water bottles / hand warmers
- Thermal clothing (adults & children)
- Padded coats / body warmers / fleeces
- Hats / gloves / socks / slippers
- Slow cookers

You can donate or collect warm winter items from The Wigan Shop 160 Gidlow Lane Wigan WN6 7EA Monday to Friday 9.30 – 4.30pm, Saturday 10am – 3pm / The Brick Works 4 Hodson St Wigan WN3 4EN Monday-Friday 9.45am – 4.15pm, second Saturday of the month, 9am-1pm

Heating the Church: We are all now very conscious of our heating bills and trying to save money where we can and obviously, we want to do our best to also make sure there is a warm welcome in Church when attending services. I know people have expressed concerns about the fabric of the building and not having any heating on but let me assure you we are endeavouring to make sure everything possible is done.

I have attended a Webinar run by the Church of England giving us guidance on what to do. One thing we have been told not to do is put the heating on daily for an hour or so as this can cause more damage. Having the heating for a short space of time for an hour here and an hour there causes condensation which in turn causes humidity.

What we plan to do is set the clock for Sunday only, to make sure the heating comes on twice during the day in time to warm the church up for 10am and 4pm. For other services such as funerals we will manage this as and when needed. We have a separate heater that looks after the organ as recommended.

We would ask that you bear with us on this as we certainly do not want people staying away because of lack of heat. We will be working hard to save energy and retain heat in the building so that you will feel comfortable. The CofE has given us a number of initiatives to try and retain heat and save energy which we will be working towards. We must keep the doors closed at all times, but we will put a sign up outside saying 'Church Open'.

Ventilation was discussed regarding Covid and as long as we have a large enough building, which we have, then it should not be a problem. The Church Committee will endeavour to monitor this.

On the recommendation front one of our parishioners suggested we collect loose change so I have put a white bucket at the back of Church and if anyone has any spare change you can throw them in, and all this will go towards the heating. Please note I am not expecting donations to be redirected to this, it's just adhoc.

Joan Roberts
Treasurer



Christmas Tree Festival 2022
Friday 9th, Saturday 10th, Sunday 11th December



Friday 9th December

1.30pm: Opening Service with the local schools

7.30pm: Valley Brass Band Concert - tickets £5 (including refreshments)

Saturday 10th December

Church open from **10.30am to 4pm** - refreshments will be available during the day.

4pm: Christmas Family Movie Event - wear your pjs, snuggle down for a family fun movie. Tickets are £2 or £5 per family. Includes refreshments of hot chocolates and goodies.

Sunday 11th December

10.30am: STA's4ALL Service

Church open from **12pm to 4pm** for people to come and see the wonderful spectacle of decorated trees!

4pm: Carol by Candlelight Service

We look forward to welcoming you!

Please contact Alison Corkill if you wish more details - email alisoncorkill@sky.com or ring 07837549722 evenings and weekends.

Could you help Alison by providing some refreshments for any of these events or stewarding when the church is open? Please contact her as above.

All those who attended Bill Fagan's funeral in November enjoyed hearing a recording of him reciting two of his dialect poems. Bill was a regular contributor to our church magazine for many years.

As a tribute to him, I include an abbreviated version of one of the last poems that was printed in December 2018. If you are not used to it, say the words phonetically and it should make sense.

Christmas Day, well it's not much moorer than u cock-strahd away,
Thurs just a few t's fot cross, a few l's fot dot, an u couple u bridges fot cross!
Lahk Halloween, Bonfire Neet, u penny fot guy, ah un trick u treet,
Christmas Day, well its real meanin is slowly being fritterd uway
"un ah fogeet"! Ghouls, un ghost, arr knocking on our doors, trick u treet,
un u penny fot guy Bonfire neet.
Awready Christmas Days feelin't t'heat! Uzzits geet aw that lot for beat.
Christmas Day, wot in "Heavens" name con replace that look on you chahlt's
face,
Wen he, or she, see's presents uz Father Christmas
un his reindeers un sleigh, uz left or leaves.

Me, well ah'm fromp't th'owd scoo! Ah'm un owd "fuddy-duddy",
un set in mi ways!
Un this heer business uv Halloween!
Trick u treet, uz bin flown in from't US of A.
Boom, bang, boom, Boom, bang, boom, Boom, bang, boom,
Ah cawnt bi dooin wi aw these ghost, un gouls, un witches flyin
ubeht on brooms.
Un thur road things arr "gooin".
Christmas Day looks lahk its headin fo rack un ruin!

This tahm ut yeer Father Christmas, wud bi loadin up His sleigh wi presents
galore!

But uz usual if yo look urehnd yo'll see thurs u shortage u snow,
So Father Christmas un his reindeers, cud bi made redundant yo know,
Sum say its u cryin shame, others sez its u crahm, but truth iz,
its u sign ut tahms,
Well its globle w'rmin, "ah" un unother thing!
Folk's dooin aw thur shoppin on lahn.

Iz Christmas Day loyzin it's stateuss in lahf?
Well folks arr startin fot think twahce!
Ah ubeht tingin thi dooer bell!

Christmas iz cumin un't goose iz gerrin fat, thurs known u that.
Kiddies singing Carols u't thi door, ah un gerrin cheeky kiss undert mistletoe,
Nobody these days decks t'halls wi holly!
Well tудay, Christmas its aw-ubeht "dosh, un lolly".
Well neh th'owd Christmases, fo me,
well 'they' seems u million un one mahls uway!
Un yet just u click on u "mouse",
un in u flach thar logged on tu "amazon, un e'bay".

Which cud spell death nell, fo Father Christmas, un his reindeers un sleigh!
It seems thurs nowt gooin reet!
Wot wi aw't shops shuttin in tehn, un on't t'high streets.
Lahk as sed, Father Christmas un iz reindeers un sleigh arr headin't same way!!
Aw thanks tu "Halloween" ghosts, un gouls, trick-u-treet, Amazon un E'bay!
U note shuded up chimney by u kiddy, on u cowd un crispy Christmas Eve Neet,
simply sed,
Father Christmas, Father Christmas, iz "Christmas Day" really dead?
Not just yet u my child u "voice" simply sad!!!
Ah'll ask you will Christmas Day soon bi dead?
Well it will if Halloween keeps raisin its ugly yed!!!

DONATIONS

I would like to thank everyone for their regular donations either by plate, envelope or Parish Giving.



Can I remind everyone that if you are a taxpayer, we can claim Gift Aid Tax back on the donations made to church, which significantly increase the amount we receive.

This money is given back to us via the HMRC. To enable us to claim the Gift Aid Tax all you need to do is complete a Gift Aid Form (just see myself or Philip Stott) and you only need to do this once. Even if you do not give regularly or just do a one-off donation, the tax can be claimed back. For every £1 you give the tax man give us 25p. It does not alter anything to do with your finances or the money you give we just claim the amount off the tax as a Charity.

This is an extremely good source of income for us in these turbulent financial times so would ask that you please consider doing this if you haven't done already.

I have noticed occasionally some people are underling the name St Aidan's on the envelopes. Let me assure you firstly that each church in the hub has its own colour co-ordinated envelopes so we know that brown envelopes belong to St. Aidan's, but all monies lose on the plate and donations paid in at our Church all come to us. If a particular fund is specified for (e.g Flowers) it will be designated to that fund within St Aidan's. All other monies go towards the running of St Aidan's and more importantly towards the mission and ministry within Billinge.

There are many ways that monies can be donated to our Church which I will cover later in New Year.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL
JOAN ROBERTS
TREASURER

Note from Treasurer

If you would like to make a donation you can do this on line, by bank transfer. the account details are:

Sort Code: 60-24-02

Account number: 04035135

Please insert the name of the person you wish us to remember as the reference.

Cheques can be made payable to St Aidan's Parish Church, or cash donations in an envelope. These can be dropped off at 4 Alder Ave, Billinge, WN5 7PY. If you are unable to get out, please ring me on 01744 895151

If you wish to make an anonymous donation then we will respect that, just write Anon in name of giver and just write the name of the person you wish to be remembered. Please note that we never quote the amount given.

CAN YOU LEAVE CHURCH A GIFT?

The word finance for some Churches and their parishioners can be a real turn off as some may be concerned their monies will not go to their designated church under the new re-organisation. Giving to the church does remain a vital and essential part of our church life, it always has done and even goes back to when Jesus was alive on earth.

Over the past year, and in fact over the past 20-30 years, St. Aidan's has received legacies which have been used for the upkeep of the church and towards our mission and ministry. This has reminded us just how important these legacies are in our mission.

We have included this little reminder in the notices to encourage our church members to consider making a provision for a legacy to St Aidan's in their own wills.

I would be only to be pleased to advise in confidence. I am contactable on 01744 895151 or 07743408390

Donations & Remembrance



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

HEATING FUND

With Thanks, June Philips

CHURCH FUNDS

In Loving memory of Jack Boardman from

John and Brenda Bridge

Margaret Rees

John and Patricia

Gloria

Gill Ken and Michael

Mrs I Dixon

4 Anon Donations

From His loving wife Marion

With Thanks towards Church Funds from Mr. H Abbott

John and Sheila Ashton

1 Anon Donation

CHURCHYARD FUNDS

With thanks from John Nicol

FLOWER FUND

In memory of Gerry Orme from Mum Dad, Nell and Jack Brady, Marie Rigby
and Love from Eunice and Family



The Registers



Funerals or Burials of Ashes 'May they rest in peace'

10th November	Alfred Highcock	91
14th November	William Fagan	88

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

20th November	Lucas Connor Platt
20th November	Aurora Eve McGinty Gannon

Holy Matrimony 'All the days of their lives'

26th November	Matthew Littler & Emily Rachael Hunt
20th November	Aurora Eve McGinty Gannon

Lord,

We pray for all of those who walk through the doors of our church, at different stages of their lives.

We pray that in each new chapter they come to know more of your love, light and glory to carry them through all of their days.

Amen

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.

Anyone wishing to make use of this memorial should contact Barbara Goulden (894694). Please give details in writing and include a telephone number on which you can be contacted.

St Aidan's Remembrance Book

Applications for Entries to the Remembrance Book can be made by filling in the request form, which gives full details of how to go about it.

Fees for entries cost £10.00. Forms are obtainable from the back of Church with details of what to do and who to return the form to.

The Opened Book shows 4 days dates per view and the pages are turned on a regular basis according to that day's date. The Book is on Display in the Glass topped Cabinet, in the Prayer corner. It has a Hinged glass top, which allows people to turn the page or pages so that their entry can be viewed at any time. Please use the pair of white cotton gloves provided to turn the pages. If you turn the pages to see a particular entry please return it to the day's date before leaving. All the entries are written in the Calligraphic style of writing with the First Letter in colour.

Church Grounds

Please note that any enquiries about graves or the burial of ashes must go to our Assistant Warden Barbara Goulden on 01744 894694 or email - staidansbillingeveger@gmail.com. not the team who work to keep the graveyard tidy.

St Aidan's Church Officials

Reader

Helen Steele 01744 894111
hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk

Reader in Training

Lesley Leppard 01744 892713
rednib2@hotmail.co.uk

Assistant Wardens

Barbara Goulden 01744 894694
Peter Hughes 01744 732890
Vacant

Assistant Treasurers

Joan Roberts 01744 895151
joanroberts@blueyonder.co.uk
Lorraine Webb 01744 608363
lorraineawebb@hotmail.co.uk

St Aidan's Friendship Group

Jennifer Berry 01942 537325
jenrenberry@gmail.com

Gift Aid

Philip Stott 01744 895751
philipjstott@icloud.com

Bible Reading Notes

Harry Wareing 01744 894759
harrywareing@talktalk.net

Baptism Enquiries

Margaret Stott 01744 895751

C.E Children's Society

Jean Grundy 01744 603208
jeangrundy49@gmail.com

Wedding Bookings

Barbara Goulden
staidansbillingeeverger@gmail.com

Church Yard Volunteers

Tracey Holland 01744 893905
tracey.cattery5@btinternet.com

USPG Boxes

John & Brenda Bridge 01744 894528
rjohnbridge@gmail.com

St Aidan's School Headteacher

Rachel Fisher 01744 678042

Flowers

Joan Andrew 01744 892877
joanandrew@live.com

Assistant Magazine Editor

Vacant

Funerals are always booked through the undertaker. Other enquiries about funerals contact staidansbillingeeverger@gmail.com

St Aidan's Billinge
www.staidanbillinge.org.uk

