

## St. Aidan's Church December 20<sup>th</sup>

Hub Bible passage for 2022:

*Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.*

*Colossians 13:14-16a*



There are some great materials that you can look up by going to the Church of England Website and following the links for Follow the Start, the Great invitation.

If you are not able to get into Church this Christmas you can watch a service on line

- 24 December - Midnight Mass from

Lancaster Priory ; 25 December - Christmas Day Service from St Andrew the Great, Cambridge; 1 January - Second Sunday of Christmas from The Benefice of Trelawny, Cornwall

And you can also sign up for reflective emails on this site.

### **Upcoming Services:**

This Saturday, Christmas Eve - 4 pm Crib Service, why not dress up in nativity costume and come to participate or just to observe the Christmas story.

8.30pm Holy Communion

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 10am service of Holy Communion.



A note from Helen:

I do apologise if some of the details are a little out of date and no updates have been published recently. As many of you will know in November I fell down a full flight of stairs, suffering concussion, severe bruising, but (I thank God that he was watching over me) only one broken rib. It could have been so much worse. I am told that both concussion and a broken rib takes time to mend, and it is certainly longer than I would like, but I am encouraged that I have been able to see small improvements over the last few weeks. I would like to thank all those who have sent cards, flowers, plants and messages of support and goodwill over the last 3 weeks and more, and also to all those who have provided support in church and taken on board the many activities at church in a very busy December schedule. It is proof once again of how we are blessed at St. Aidan's by a wonderful team of volunteers who frequently go the extra mile. Thank You! It also revealed that our teams need to be expanded in order to cope with the unexpected. If you could join any team to help out you would be welcomed with open arms!



### **Christmas tree Festival**

Congratulations to all who organised this event especially Alison Corkill, for those who sponsored and decorated trees, the Primary Schools who sang at the opening service those who attended the Concert by the

Valley Brass Band, those who attended the Family Movie night and the Sunday services.

The large **charity Christmas card** for you to sign a greeting to other church members will this year be given to support 'Billinge Music Group' - a local children's music group held in the Parish Hall, offering teaching with a variety of instruments. David Milligan (Kath's son) is instrumental in setting this up for children for all the Billinge Primary Schools. The £100 we have raised will be used to purchase equipment.

You may have already heard that our **Archdeacon**, Mike McGuirk is leaving to move to Manchester. Bishop Bev has announced the temporary appointment of Canon Sam Nicolson to act as Archdeacon for Wigan and West Lancashire, while Revd Miranda Threlfall-Holmes will act as the Archdeacon of Liverpool. Both will start in their roles shadowing Mike and working with brother Archdeacons in early January of next year with the posts taking legal effect from February 1<sup>st</sup>. They will cover these roles for three days a week, remaining in their parish roles for the rest of the time.

The next stage will be to work to discern and specify the role of a permanent Archdeacon role and to determine the shape of our archdeaconries. We will publish the full details and the application process in the first part of 2023.

**Winter Warmers:** 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

Please note that a collection is not being made in church. If you wish to donate please take it to 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. If you are cold, or know anyone who is struggling you can collect warm winter items from The Wigan Shop.

**Prayer for our Deanery** - Following Church Wigan's Calib walk to Mesnes Park in October it was felt that it is important to go to different places in the Deanery to pray. The first of these events is to be in the Council Chamber at Wigan. It starts at 3pm on January 10<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

**Church Magazine** - a big thanks to all those who have printed and delivered the magazines this year. It is a wonderful ministry to provide those who are stuck at home with information and company from this source, and all of these people give freely of their time.

Sadly, as we may have anticipated, the costs of producing the magazine have risen steeply this year, especially the paper which is nearly 50% dearer. We have no alternative but to raise the cover price of the magazine, and the price is to rise to 70p per issue. A magazine has been printed for January of 2023, but after this we will resume our previous practice of having a joint issue in December and January.

If you do not wish to receive a printed magazine any longer please let us know so that we do not incur cost of printing unwanted magazines. It is not everyone's cup of tea, but remember that you can view the magazine for free on line by visiting our website [staidanbillinge.org.uk](http://staidanbillinge.org.uk) and clicking on updates/magazines.

### **HEATING THE CHURCH**

A reminder that we will be keeping the doors of church closed to maintain the heating but there will be a sign up outside saying Church Open.

The white bucket remains at the back of Church and if anyone has any spare change or coppers to throw them in which will go towards the heating.

Our heating costs are paid out of our General funds. If you wish to contribute this can be done electronically using the QR code below to take you into our Church Web site

*We would be very grateful to receive any donations to the General Fund. The names of all donors will be recorded in our monthly magazine unless you request to give anonymously.*



To donate use this QR code :-

Or go on line to [staidanbillinge.org.uk](http://staidanbillinge.org.uk)

Or send in an envelope to Church addressed to St. Aidan's Treasurer, General Funds adding your name or Anonymous as appropriate

**Andy and Yumiko** would like to thank the people at St. Aidan's who have provided so much support during the last 2 years when their respective fathers have been ill, and their support, kind wishes and prayers in their bereavements.

Congratulations go to Patricia Martin, Roy Thompson and Lesley Hughes who all have a birthday next week.

## Prayer for the Parish

If anyone needs to be added to our prayer list please let Helen or Margaret Stott know. The family must give permission for any name to be added to the list. The list that has been on these updates is also used in church services.

For confidential prayer needs contact Jennifer Berry for the St Aidan's Prayer Circle on 01942 389715 or Brenda Bridge on 01744 894528.



Please pray by name for Tracey-Ann Napier, Lorraine Webb, Jeanette Caine, Baby Janie May, Gill Sainsbury, Wally Brooks, Ian Smith, Reena Winstanley, Brian Sharples, Eunice Grace, Jeffrey Forster and Helen Steele. And we remember the bereaved - the family and friends of Barry Milnes, Thomas Wilson, Barry Connor, Raymond Goodban, Kathleen Winstanley and Derek Peers.



Please pray for

- Peace and Goodwill throughout the world this Christmas
- all those who must work over the Christmas period, that they may know Christ's presence in unexpected ways, and be blessed in serving others
- all who attend a church this weekend, that they may receive a wonderful welcome and feel the blessings of being with other Christians in this season
- all those who feel undervalued and those who are struggling financially at this most difficult of times.
- those who are exhausted, mentally, emotionally and physically

May God bless you all at this time, may Jesus be born anew in your hearts, May the Holy Spirit give you peace and joy in this Holy Season.