

St. Aidan's Church February 12th

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Wigan South Bible passage for 2023:

God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Upcoming Services:

This Sunday, February 12th, Sta's4all will be in school at 10.30am. This will be on the theme of Abraham. At 4pm we have our Evening Prayer in Church. Next Sunday, February 19th 10am Morning Worship. Wednesday January 15th 10am Holy Communion. Sunday

On Wednesday February 22nd, Ash Wednesday, there is a service of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity at 10am, and 7pm there is a service at St. Peter's Brigade Hall, Bryn. Parking for this is in the 'Rec' car park on the opposite side of the road (WN4 0AA)

February 26th 10am Beacon Service.



Church Magazine - Helen is unable to continue to act as a collection point for articles for the church magazine for much longer. If the magazine is to continue into the foreseeable future we urgently need someone to come forward to help. You do not have to write the articles, merely to collect them and forward them to Jess who arranges them for printing. This can be done from home using email.

Please remember if you want a donation in memory of a loved one in a particular month, the deadline for material is about halfway through the previous month. E.g. the deadline for the March magazine is Wednesday 15th March.

Picnic in the Park - Sunday May 7th We would love to be able to have a stall at this event to celebrate King Charles Coronation. However some key organisers are unable to help on this occasion. If we are to have a stall we need someone to transport the gazebo and tables to the park, people to erect and take down these items, as well as the usual helpers on the stall and bakers to bring cakes. If we have insufficient offers by March 5th we will have to decline the stall. Please contact Helen or sign up at the back of church.

Lent Small Groups

We are hoping to start some small groups during Lent, the theme is 'Overflowing'. This will also be the subject of the service reflections in Lent. Wednesday is our traditional evening to hold these groups, though it could be another day. The series is 4 weeks Lent 1 - Matthew 4:1-11 Temptation of Jesus; Lent 2 - Exodus 16 Manna & Quail ; Lent 3 - Exodus 32 Golden calf ; and Lent 4/Mothering Sunday - Exodus 35 Offerings for the Worshipping Community. Can you please let Helen know if you would like to join in any of these ways: In church, On Zoom, on Wednesday evening, at another time. Please do this by Sunday 19th February, so that a decision can be made.

Foodbank We are thankful for all donations to the foodbank, who are struggling to supply the demand for food items at this difficult time. They are also asking if people have carrier bags that they can donate - the push for re-usable bags is successful for our environment, but the Food Banks have a shortage. If you can bring some into church and put them in the food donation boxes please that would be wonderful.

Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal.

As you'll likely have heard, a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck south-eastern Turkey near the border with Syria, followed a series of powerful aftershocks. This is the deadliest and most powerful recorded earthquake to hit Turkey in decades. Many thousands of men, women and children have died or are injured. But even before this devastating earthquake, there were over four million people in need of aid in Northwest Syria.

There will be a plate in church for the next few weeks for you to give a donation to the appeal. Christian Aid has a track record of working with local partners in Northwest Syria to provide winter kits to people seeking shelter. These kits include plastic sheeting, mattresses, blankets, and heating materials. Their appeal is for the situation in both Turkey and Syria. We have therefore chosen to send donations through the Christian Aid Appeal.

Right Buildings Review

This is part of a Diocesan assessment of all its building including Churches and Church Halls. Its goal is to discern prayerfully and objectively which ones help us to best fulfil the mission Jesus is giving us today and in the future. The Right Buildings Review in Wigan will take a year, running from December 2022 to December 2023. There are 2 distinct phases: the Assessment phase which concludes with the Right Buildings Proposal in May 2023, and the consultation phase, in which the proposal is discussed with members of Church Wigan and important partners.

We are currently in the assessment stage. Team Leader, Cliff Unsworth reports

"What I find really encouraging as the team goes through the assessment process is the way we have been welcomed and accepted at the building survey visits we have completed so far. We are encouraged that even though this is a difficult process, we truly believe that Church Wigan Worshipping Communities are behind us and God is alongside of us".

As Michelle Prior, the other Team Leader said ... "Hard decisions have to be made but, to leave a sustainable legacy to future generations, we must get on and do it now."

School Links We are very pleased to report that 'Open the Book' has been able to resume at St Aidan's School. A team of parishioners go into school to enact a Bible story for the children bringing it to life. This has been on hold since Covid. Please pray for the team, and for other activities which strengthen the bond between Church and School.

Random Act of Kindness Day

Next Friday (17th) is known as 'Random Act of Kindness Day' when we are encouraged to show compassion and love towards others and, of course, as Christians, we do this in Jesus' name. There are many ways we can show God's love in what we do for others, by praying for others, contacting someone who is lonely, as well as giving to those who are in need. Let's share God's love widely next Friday.

Help with Audio Visual Support

We urgently need more people to run the laptop and projector systems during our 10 00 Sunday services. Ideally the person leading the service should not have to move the slides on themselves, and the laptop would be better situated at the back of church. We currently have too few volunteers and are almost at the point where we can't continue as we are. The system is not as scary as it looks and new volunteers will be properly trained and supported. If you think you can help, then please contact Helen Steele.

Happy Birthday to Jensen Sharples who had a birthday earlier this week, and to Laura Codling, Dawn Davies, Cliff Stockley, Brenda Bridge and Joan Roberts who have a birthday in the near future.

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. Some names have been added to the church list without informing Margaret that this permission has been given, and we are unable to check on their progress. 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, Gill Sainsbury, Wally Brooks, Reena Winstanley, Brian Sharples, Jeffrey Forster. And we remember the bereaved - the family and friends of Ian Smith, Fiona McDonald and Eunice Grace.

Please pray for

- all those affected by the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, those who are helping to rescue and restore, those who are homeless and those who grieve
- a solution to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and for all who are homeless, injured and bereaved
- wisdom for leaders on both sides of the multiple industrial actions that a resolution may be fairly found and peace and security will be experienced by all people
- all those who are struggling financially at this most difficult of times
- pupils and staff at St. Aidan's school during half term, and the strengthening of links that exist between school and church
- those who are exhausted, mentally, emotionally and physically and those who are struggling with their faith

Father God, while all around us seems overwhelming and even baffling, give us peace in our hearts, with the knowledge that You are God. You love us, and you strengthen all who turn to you. Father we believe, help our unbelief. Amen