

# Wigan South Parish Magazine

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

**St Aidan's edition**



**From the rising of the sun to its going down  
The Lord's name is to be praised.**

**July 2023**

**70p**

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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.

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If you would like further information or to book a wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine. Funeral Directors will book any funerals.

# 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).

	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>
<b>Deadline for material</b>	Summer break	17 August	14 September
<b>Publication date</b>	Summer break	27 August	24 September

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## Storms of Life



The boat was tossed from side to side  
Buffeted by the wind and rain,  
Alarm and panic filled their hearts  
Would they ever reach the shore again?

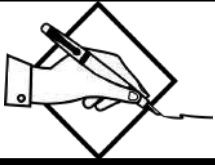
The sky was dark and looking out  
They thought they saw a ghost appear,  
Transfixed with horror, what could it be  
Treading on water and drawing near?

Their hearts were stilled as hope arose  
As they heard the voice of the One they knew,  
'Do not be afraid, this storm will pass'  
And the sea grew calm and the wind withdrew.

When storms of life assail our boat  
And our hearts are filled with dread and fear,  
Remember the One who treads the waves,  
He sees our plight – He's drawing near.



***By Megan Carter***



# A Letter from

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered this month in the church's calendar. What can we learn from Mary's story?

We don't have to be defined by our past:

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed and she became a follower of Jesus. Her life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

Put Jesus at the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

Jesus uses the weakest in the world:

Mary is a great example of Paul's words: 'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.' (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously.

We should be careful not to dismiss the things that don't follow our expectations, because Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we let Him, He can do it through us!

# Parish News

## Regular Events

Tuesdays

10am – 12pm: Coffee Morning in St Thomas' church hall



Wednesdays

1pm – 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies in St Thomas' church hall (term time only)

1pm - 3pm: Knit and Chat group at St Peter's (term time only)

7.30pm: Women's Fellowship at St Peter's



Fridays

2pm – 3.15pm: Gentle dance class at St Luke's

2.10pm: Bible study in St Thomas' church hall



**ST THOMAS & ST LUKE'S MOTHERS' UNION  
WELCOMES EVERYONE TO:**

**SUMMER EVENING**

**Monday 17th July 2023**

**7.30pm**

**St Thomas' Church Hall**

Enjoy entertainment from Banjo and Beyond

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to St Thomas' church building which was re-built using stones from the old structure and consecrated on 6th July 1893 - 130 years ago! To find out more about this historical moment in the parish, see St Thomas' website or pages 26 - 28 of the St Thomas' version of the magazine.



There will be a Picnic in the Park in Ashton's Jubilee flower park on 16th July from 12:30-3:30pm. There will be music, messy church, prayer tent... bring a chair or picnic blanket and a picnic. Cakes, drinks and ice cream sundaes will be available for free!



Overrun with mice in the abbey  
The abbot introduced his pet tabby.  
The problem was solved  
But lo -and-behold,  
Tabby grew rather flabby.

Losing his speed and agility,  
Tabby lost the ability,  
To hunt for his prey,  
Being ten years and a day,  
He conceded to advancing senility!

John Daniels.



# Services in July

Sunday 2nd	9.00am Morning Worship 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Family Worship 6.30pm Holy Communionam	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 5th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 6th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 9th	9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Sta's4all in school 10.30am All Age Worship 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 12th	10.00am Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 13th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

Sunday 16th	9.00am Morning Worship 9.30am Church café 10.00am Morning Worship 10.30am Morning Prayer 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion 11.00am Family Worship 6.30pm Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 19th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 20th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 23rd	9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00am St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am Café Church 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Family Worship 4.00pm Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 26th	10.00am Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 27th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

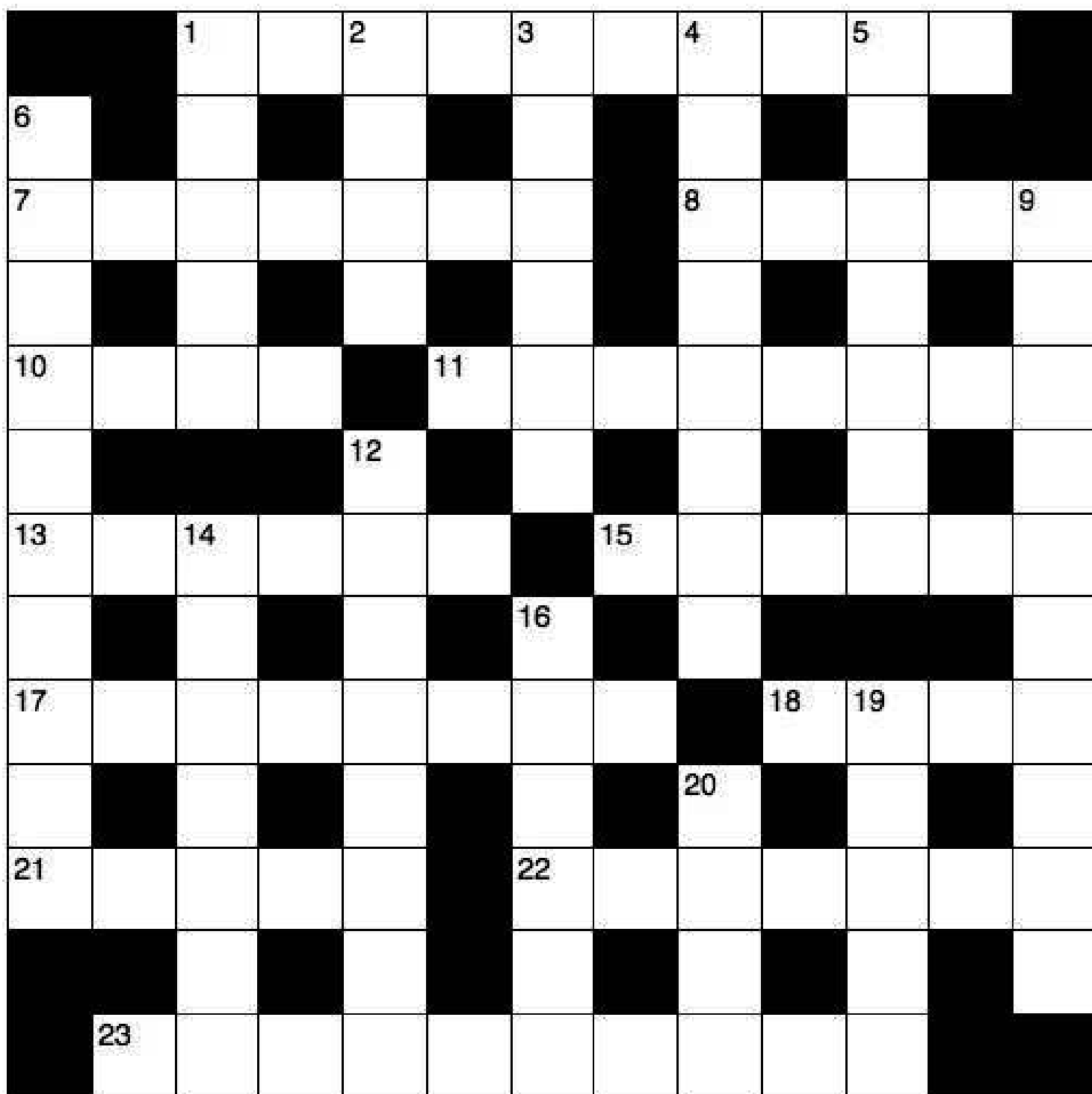
**The services shall follow the same pattern in August as per the first four weeks of July.**



Everyone is welcome to join all services.

If you would like to attend any services across the parish and need assistance with transport, please get in contact with your local leadership team.

# Crossword



Answers on page 16

## Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John – (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1-6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was – in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

## Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will – over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1-11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and – from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

## 75 years of the National Health Service



It was 75 years ago, on 5th July 1948, that the National Health Service (NHS) began operating – formally opened at the Park Hospital in Manchester, now renamed Trafford General.

The National Health Service Act provided for the establishment of a comprehensive health service for England and Wales. (Separate legislation was produced for Scotland and Northern Ireland.)

The Minister of Health at the time was Labour firebrand Aneurin Bevan, but the NHS came into being through the efforts of many others as well – notably Conservative Sir Henry Willink, who was Minister of Health in the Coalition government in 1944. His White Paper laid down all the basic elements of an NHS – that no-one was excluded, and that healthcare was free and based on need, not the ability to pay.

But the origins of the NHS went back many years, starting perhaps in the early 1900s, with socialist Beatrice Webb's Minority Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law. It aimed to get away from the workhouse system, where those with no resources were expected to look after themselves. The report was dismissed by the Liberal government.

Strong ideas in the same vein had also come from biochemist Dr Benjamin Moore, from Liverpool, who is also credited with first use of the words "National Health Service". A novel called *The Citadel* by D J Cronin (also a doctor) drew attention to the inadequacies of health care at the time of its publication in 1937.

In the end, the NHS was based to a large extent on the Beveridge Report, published in 1942. William Beveridge was a Liberal politician, economist and social reformer who also had a strong interest in eugenics – the aim of improving the human race by controlling reproduction

# July Holy Days

## **3rd July St Thomas the Apostle, confused and doubting**

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe - unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff).

Thus, Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event - the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him.

## **31st July St Ignatius Loyola – founder of the Society of Jesus**

Ignatius came from a noble Basque family in north-east Spain. Born in 1491 in his family's castle near Loyala, he was sent to serve as a page at the court of King Ferdinand V of Castile. Ignatius entered military service, but was wounded in 1521, at the French siege of Pamplona. While convalescing, he read the life of Christ, as well as the biographies of various saints.

Like those saints, Ignatius felt the call of Christ on his life, and responded. He made a pilgrimage to Montserrat (near Barcelona) where he firmly hung up his sword over the altar. He exchanged his clothes with a beggar, and settled in nearby Manresa, where he helped care for the sick in the hospital there. Then he spent some time as a hermit in a local cave, praying and studying Thomas a Kempis's book 'The Imitation of Christ'. It was probably during this time that Ignatius wrote his famous 'Spiritual Exercises' on Christian prayer and meditation. It has been valued by Christians of many traditions for centuries.

Ignatius then went on pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem, studied at the universities of Barcelona, Alcala and Salamanca, and ended up in Paris to continue studies. It was there, in 1534 that Ignatius and a group of six students (including Francis Xavier) vowed to go as missionaries to Islamic Palestine.

They were prevented from travel by a war in Europe, and so, in 1537, the group, now ten in number, offered their services to the Pope. By 1540 they had been ordained, and with papal approval, formed the Society of Jesus, with a vow of personal obedience to the Pope, in addition to the traditional three monastic vows.

Ignatius became the first general of the order, and in the following 15 years the order grew hundred-fold, to become the vanguard of both the Counter Reformation and the missionary work of the Roman Catholic Church.

Ignatius died on 31st July 1556, but even today his famous prayer is treasured by Christians of all traditions:

Teach us, good Lord, to serve You as You deserve.

To give and not to count the cost.

To fight and not to heed the wounds;

To toil and not to seek for rest;

To labour and not to ask for any reward;

Save that of knowing that we do Your will;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Life-changing Audio Bibles for people with sight loss

At the end of 2021, Torch took “a leap of faith” and ordered 1,000 Pathway audio Bible players containing the New Testament and Psalms read by the actor David Suchet.

Knowing the power of Scripture to change lives, they planned to “give these Bibles for free to anyone in the UK losing their sight. 16 months later, all of these Bible players have been sent out and the stories coming back are so amazing that Torch has ordered 1,000 more.”

Gayle-Ann told us “It is my friend...with me wherever, it is just so convenient. I have read the New Testament, but the way this is read is just easily understood”.

Kenneth wouldn't have called himself a Christian, and hasn't enjoyed audio books, but 'I like listening to the Pathway. I'm really listening to the New Testament now, not just odd verses. I'm realising what it all means.'

Losing sight can be a time of real questioning and searching, so what better gift can a newly blind person receive than the Word of God?

Torch is encouraging anyone who is living with sight loss to contact them for a free audio Bible at [www.torchtrust.org/pathway](http://www.torchtrust.org/pathway) , or by calling 01858 438260.

Most of the first 1,000 players were sponsored by individuals, churches or trusts. Torch is also seeking people to donate £20 to cover the cost of sending out one of the new audio Bibles.

# Crossword Answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Sabbatical. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation.

**DOWN:** 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.





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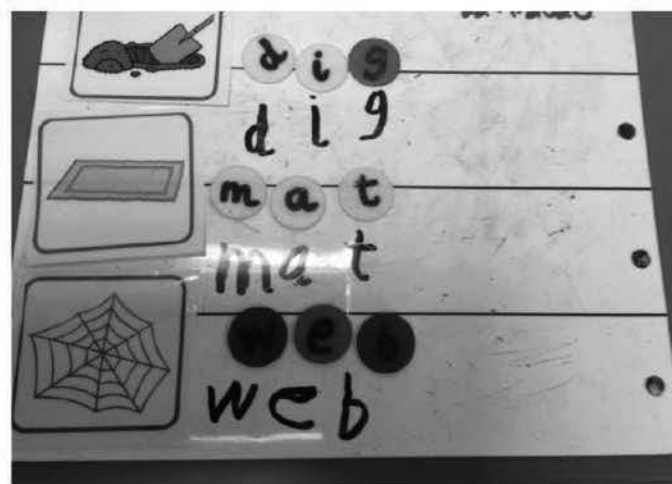
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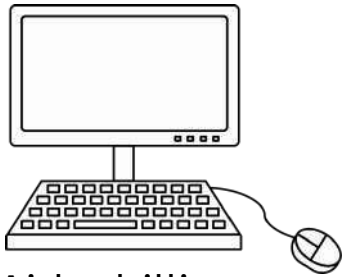


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[St.Aidanbillinge.org](http://St.Aidanbillinge.org)



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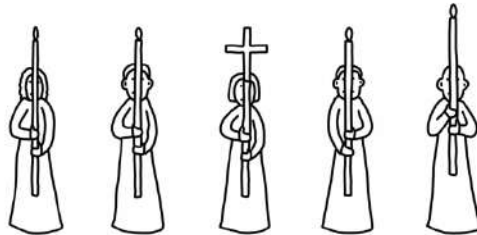
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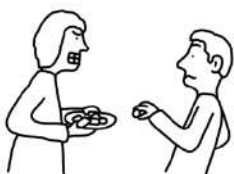
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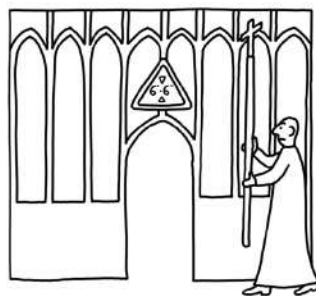
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# News from our churches

Sunday 2nd July	10.00am 12.45pm	Holy Communion Baptism Service
Wednesday 5th July	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th July	10.30am 4.00pm	Sta's4all in school No morning service in church Evening Prayer
Sunday 16th July	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesday 19th May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd July	10.00am 4.00pm	St Aidan's Beacon Holy Communion
Sunday 30th July	10.30am	Wigan South Holy Communion at Holy Trinity

Sta's4all – on 9th July is our last one of this academic year! God says – You are special! Please note that in August there will be no Sta's4all, It takes place as normal in July at St Aidan's School: there will be activities and worship for all ages, particularly the young at heart.

**Beacon:** Our next Beacon service is on 23rd July. We really value the contributions of our church school, and as each school year approaches the time when they will move on another year, our theme is 'Moving On'. As year 6 move on to High School in September we remind them that they are a part of the St. Aidan's family and are always welcome at our Beacon service and any other service. 'Beacon' is for all ages, and for all our community, not just for those with attachments to St. Aidan's School. Do come along and meet with us.



## Church Grounds

As some of you may know we are getting many complaints regarding the height of the grass in the middle graveyard.

We have recently employed someone to trim this area, which was done in 4 sections. Unfortunately as they could only come once a week the first cut was just as high again by the time section 3 was cut section. It has also proved to be cost prohibitive.

We are in the process of asking for volunteers to help with the Churchyard maintenance. If you can volunteer a little of your time it would be greatly appreciated. It may involve some light tasks, ie brushing leaves/twigs on the paths; removing dead flowers/seasonal decorations /weeding etc.

Harder jobs ie strimming will be done by more experienced people. Also in you have any unwanted gardening tools they will also be gratefully received.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Barbara Goulden or Peter Hughes – Assistant Wardens.



## St Aidan's Memorial Stone

The memorial stone which stands at the head of the Garden of Remembrance is to commemorate people who have been buried in St Aidan's Churchyard, either in the Garden of Remembrance or in a family grave.

At the time of engraving a loved one's name (as above) you may wish to reserve (and pay for) a line underneath (husband or wife etc) and the date of birth. When, subsequently, this second person has been interred in St Aidan's then the name and date of birth is added at the request of the family.

## Magazine

We are still looking for someone to collect contributions for this magazine and to liaise with Jess who is the editor. You only need to take emails from contributors and pass the articles on to Jesse by email on the closing day for materials. Helen has a master for the order and images, but is no longer able to do this herself. Please contact Helen if you can help (hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk)

## Confirmation

Confirmation will take place on Monday July 3rd at St. Thomas Church, Ashton, starting at 7pm. We pray for God's blessing on the candidates.

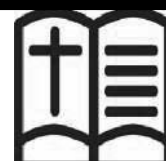
## St Aidan's Emergency Prayer Group

Do you know someone in need of prayer support? Sickness, anxious, feeling 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.

## Zsa Zsa Florist

Please note that in our adverts we have changed the venue of Zsa Zsa Florist to the location from which they will be trading from 1st August. Throughout July they remain at 36 Main Street.

# The Registers



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

5th June	James Roby	
24th June	Jennifer Harris	73
25th June	Margery Gee	83

## **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 - [staidansbillingeeverger@gmail.com](mailto:staidansbillingeeverger@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](mailto:staidansbillingeeverger@gmail.com)

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

